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EDITORS' NOTE

THE first two numbers of the *Indian Archives* were published by the Imperial Record Department on behalf of the Indian Historical Records Commission. On the 15th of August 1947, India ceased to be a dependency of the British Crown and attained the status of a Dominion in the British Commonwealth of Nations. The old nomenclature had in consequence to be rejected as inappropriate and the Department was rechristened the National Archives of India. This is not an empty formality, for it indicates in no uncertain manner that the Central archives office of the Dominion of India is expected to play a new and more important rôle. For one thing the distinction between the crown and the federal records disappears for ever with the cessation of the dual function of the Viceroy as Governor-General and Crown Representative. H.E. the Governor-General is today the constitutional head of a democratic government and with the lapse of paramountcy the Indian States are no longer his special or personal concern. The Political Department of which he used to be the guiding genius has therefore yielded place to the Ministry of States and the Residencies and Political Agencies, the active instruments of that Department, are no longer in operation. Most of the contiguous States, big and small, have joined the Indian Union and are now component units of the federated State. The National Archives will henceforth be as intimately related with princely India as with the former British Indian provinces.

Unfortunately independence was not associated with unity and the country has been divided on communal lines. The Commission may therefore lose active contact with several provinces that previously formed a part of the Indian Empire, but it is hoped that the *Indian Archives* will form an effective link between the archivists of the two Dominions.

A political revolution of this magnitude could not but have its repercussions in the country as a whole, but our immediate concern as an archival organization and archives journal is limited to the future of the official documents which once belonged to the British Crown. As the successor Government India should inherit all the Residency records within its geographical bounds, but their fate is yet unknown. The dispersal or destruction of these valuable papers will be a calamity which no archivist or historian can view with indifference and we fervently hope that these raw materials of Indian history will ultimately find their way to the National Archives.

We are happy India has at last achieved her destiny. We are sorry she stands divided. United or divided, we hope, she will play her rightful rôle in the Assembly of Nations true to her ancient traditions of peace, love and sacrifice. May she rise above the narrow concept of caste, class, creed, colour or territorial nationality and dedicate herself to the service of humanity. '*Vande Mātaram.*'

THE ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL PALACE MUSEUM OF PEIPING

THE National Palace Museum of Peiping was established in 1925 to administer what is popularly known as the 'Forbidden City', i.e. the former Imperial Palace of the Ch'ing Dynasty (1644–1911), as a public museum. Three departments were organized for carrying out different activities. These are the Departments of Antiquities, the Museum Library and the Archives.

The Department of Archives is charged with the duty of caring and cataloguing of the archives found in the Palace. As the archives were scattered in various buildings in the Palace when this department was organized, the first thing that had to be done was to have all the archives concentrated in one place so that they might be put in order and be properly classified and catalogued. Owing to the voluminous nature of the archives and limited number of staff members, the department decided to have the most important ones catalogued first. This work was interrupted by the Japanese invasion in 1937. Now that the war is over, the staff have all returned and are able to resume their work.

The voluminous archives kept in the Museum are mostly records and documents of the Ch'ing, or Manchu, Government. They belonged to various offices closely connected with the emperor. Those already sorted out are now grouped into 13 classes according largely to the offices producing or securing them.

1. GRAND SECRETARIAT ARCHIVES.—The Grand Secretariat was the highest government establishment in the Ming Dynasty (1368–1643), but it had lost much of its importance since the reign of Yung Cheng in the Ch'ing Dynasty. Hence its duties consisted of, for the most part, in promulgating edicts and in keeping state papers. The Archives comprise:

(a) *Yellow Books*.—These are detailed reports sent as enclosures with the memorials to the emperors from officers in Peking and the provinces. They have been catalogued by source, and a catalogue published. A part of the Yellow Books are now in the possession of the National Peking University and the National Research Institute of History and Philology of the Academia Sinica. So a union catalogue has been compiled, which will be published by this Department.

(*b*) *Examination Papers and Lists of Literary Degree-Takers.*—A part of these papers and lists are also in the possession of the National Peking University and the National Research Institute of History and Philology. A union catalogue is being compiled.

(*c*) *Recopied Memorials.*—These are copies of memorials transcribed by court scribes for reference by the court. All have been classified and catalogued.

(*d*) *Old Russian Documents.*—These comprise—(1) Twenty-three original communications from Russia written in Old Russian relating to Sino-Russian relations during the reigns of Kang Hsi and Chien Lung. They have been numbered and reproduced in facsimile, and published with translations in modern Russian and Chinese, together with the original Manchu translations; (2) Russian and Manchu Documents—These were translations kept in the Mongolian Hall, a copying and translating office attached to the Grand Secretariat. The important ones will be translated and published in the near future.

(*e*) *Records of various Halls.*—These were records kept in the Manchu and Mongolian sections of the Grand Secretariat.

(*f*) *Memorials with Imperial Endorsement.*—This collection consists of memorials originally borrowed from the court by editorial officers of the Grand Secretariat, and, for some reason or other, not returned after use. Such memorials have been arranged chronologically and catalogued, with suitable contents-note.

(*g*) *Old Manchu Records.*—These were the military, political, diplomatic and Imperial Household records before the establishment of Ch'ing Government in 1644. The script used is the unpunctuated old Manchu. They have been checked by this Department with later punctuated copies.

(*h*) *Incoming Letters.*—Letters to the Grand Secretariat and its attached offices are arranged by source in chronological order.

2. Grand Council Archives.—The Grand Council was the highest central establishment in the Ch'ing Dynasty. Originally a military council, it became later the Privy Council of the Emperor; most decrees were issued from this establishment, as well as orders concerning state administration. The archives comprise:

(*a*) *Records and Registers of routine duties.*

(*b*) *Memorials to the Emperors*—either original ones with Imperial Endorsement, or those copied for reference, are arranged in chronological order contents-notes being made in each case.

(*c*) *Incoming Communications.*—Reports, Inquiries, Notifications, Brief Reports and Answers, are first catalogued by class and then arranged in chronological order.

(*d*) *Telegrams.*—These were diplomatic telegrams of 1900-1901, in the reign of Emperor Kuang Hsu. They are not only catalogued but contents-notes have also been made.

(*e*) *Diplomatic Communications.*—Addressed to the Tsung Li Yamen, the Office of Foreign Affairs, are first divided by nation, and then arranged in chronological order. Vol. 1–4 of the catalogue have been published, while a selection of the communications has also been published as Vol. 1 of '*Some materials concerning Missionary Affairs*'.

3. The Imperial Household Archives.—The Imperial Household served the numerous and varied needs of the Imperial Court.

4. Archives of the Inner Palaces.—These archives are collected from different palaces, halls, etc.

5. Imperial Clan Court Archives.—This Department, the Imperial Clan Court, controlled all affairs relating to the Imperial Kindred and preserved the Family Roll, or Genealogical Records.

6. Archives of the State Historiographer's Office.—The documents in this group are mostly duplicates copied from those of the Grand Council.

7. Ministry of Punishments Archives.—These archives were formerly deposited in the Ministry of Justice. They were transferred to the Museum.

8. Miscellaneous Archives.—Under this heading are grouped those documents newly bought from second-hand bookstores. Most of them (marked) belong to the Republican era.

(1) War Office Documents.

(2) Congressional Papers—telegrams, letters, reports, regulations, lists, etc.

(3) Government Bulletins of the early years of the Republic.

(4) Tuan Fang Archives—the late Governor Tuan Fang had been the Acting Governor-General of Hupeh, Hunan, Kwangtung and Kwangsi Provinces, and the same of Kiangsu and Kiangsi Provinces;

Superintendent of Trade for the Southern Ports, and the same for the Northern Ports, etc. His papers have a great deal to do with the political and military situation of the last years of the Ch'ing Dynasty. They have all been catalogued, and an analysis of the papers published.

Besides the above mentioned eight groups there are five more, which are kept apart because of their voluminous nature:

9. SHIH LU, or the Annals of all emperors throughout the Ch'ing Dynasty.

10. DECREES OF EMPERORS.—A compilation of Imperial Decrees in chronological order.

11. CHI CHU CHU.—A diary of the emperors' movements written in Manchu as well as in Chinese throughout the Ch'ing Dynasty.

12. YU TIEH, or Genealogical Records of the Imperial Family.

13. MAPS.—There are three collections from—

(a) The Map Room of the Imperial Household Workshops—a catalogue of which has been compiled and published.

(b) The Grand Secretariat.

(c) The Grand Council.

This Department also maintains a displaying service of the archives in different phases, and a compiling and publishing section for publishing useful materials catalogued. A partial list of its more important publications is as follows:

(1) Catalogues:

(a) *A Catalogue of Unpublished Memorials submitted to Emperor Yung Cheng.* 1 v.

(b) *Catalogue of the Grand Council Archives.* 1 v.

(c) *Catalogue of Maps of the Imperial Household Workshops' Map Room.* 1 v.

(d) *Complete Contents of the Annals of Ch'ing Emperors.* 1 v.

(e) *Catalogue of Yellow Books (in Chinese) preserved in the Grand Secretariat Archives.* 1 v.

(f) *Catalogue of Diplomatic Communications from Foreign Countries.* 4 v.

(2) Archives Collections:

(a) *Memorials from Li Hsu, Superintendent of the Imperial Manufactory at Soochow during the reign of Chien Lung.* 1 v.

(*b*) *Records concerning the Literary Inquisition of Ch'ing Dynasty.* 9 v.

The following collections concerning Foreign Relations of the Ch'ing Dynasty:

(*c*) *The Foreign Relations of the Ch'ing Dynasty in the reign of Chia Ching.* 6 v.

(*d*) *The Foreign Relations of the Ch'ing Dynasty in the reign of Tao Huang.* 1–4 v.

(*e*) *Sino-Japanese Diplomatic Relations in the reign of Kuang Hsu.* 44 v.

(*f*) *Sino-Japanese Diplomatic Relations in the reign of Hsuan-Tung.* 3 v.

(*g*) *Sino-French Diplomatic Relations in the reign of Kuang Hsu.* 1–11 v.

(*h*) *Old Russian Documents.* 1 v.

(*i*) *Letters from the King of Korea.* 1 v.

(*j*) *Emperor Kang Hsi's Letters to the Pope's Envoy.* 1 v.

(*k*) *Some Materials concerning Missionary Affairs.* 1 v.

(*l*) *Facsimile Documents of the Tai Ping Rebellion.* 1 v.

(3) Periodicals: The following periodicals were published by this Department before the War:

(*a*) *Historical Source Materials* (issued every ten days) Nos. 1–40.

(*b*) *Collected Records,* 1–10 v.

(*c*) *Collected Historical Documents.* 1–46 v.

The above list includes only those publications edited by the Department that will interest foreign scholars. A comprehensive collection of documents on the foreign affairs of the three reigns of Tao Kuang, Hsian Feng and Tung Chih, compiled in the Ch'ing Dynasty, has been published by the Museum. In addition, many pictures, portraits, maps, post-cards, etc. have also been published by this Department. They are too numerous to be included here. (*Received through the courtesy of Dr. T. L. Yuan, Director, National Library, Peiping and published by kind permission.*)

HISTORICAL MAPS OF THE SURVEY OF INDIA

COLONEL R. H. PHILLIMORE

IT might be said that all maps have some present or future historical interest, but in this paper I shall confine myself to maps earlier than 1860. Before that date nearly all maps had to be laboriously copied by hand, with not more than four or five copies, if so many, from one original. Lithographic presses were not established at the Survey Offices in Calcutta till about 1853, and only very special maps had been engraved or lithographed before then.

Either the original or a fair-drawn copy of every survey or compiled map was invariably sent to India House in London, and this valuable collection, after some losses, is now held at the India Office in Whitehall. Its only printed catalogue is that published by Sir Clements Markham in 1878. A few early Indian maps have found their way to the British Museum.

There are several collections of maps and charts in India. Nautical charts are with the Hydrographer, Royal Indian Navy, at Bombay or Poona, and a few maps are held by the Chief Engineer at Bombay.

There is a valuable collection held by the Madras Record Office, whose *List of Maps and Plans*, dated 1914, describes 683 maps and nautical charts. These are exceedingly well cared for, and each one is mounted on cloth, dissected and folded. The catalogue requires revision in many respects.

At Calcutta, a number of maps are held by the Imperial Library, mostly printed, and these are shown in a *Catalogue of Maps and Plans*, dated 1910. A few maps of local interest are held at the Victoria Memorial Hall, and others at the Imperial Record Department (now the National Archives of India) at New Delhi.

In 1839 there was published at Calcutta a *Register of the Maps to be found in the various offices of the Bengal Presidency*, and a supplement followed in 1842. The great majority of maps shown in this *Register* were held at the office of the Surveyor General at Calcutta, and are now with the Map Record and Issue Office, Survey of India, at Hathibarkala, Dehra Dun. The descriptions given in this register are, however, far from complete, though the regular periodical lists prepared in the Surveyor General's office since about 1800, and hidden away in old office records, often give valuable information.

The External Affairs and the Political departments of the Government of India must hold large collections of valuable maps showing boundaries.

Though some of these maps were prepared under the authority of the Chief Engineers or Quarter Masters General, the great majority were prepared by officers under the orders of the Surveyor General of India, or of his predecessors at the three presidencies. Even some of the coastal charts before 1810 were prepared under the Surveyor Generals.

I will now describe briefly the vast collection of maps held by the Survey of India at Hathibarkala, where I spent nearly three months during January to March 1947. The collection appears to number between ten and twenty thousand manuscript maps earlier than 1860, mostly single copies or originals. There is no printed catalogue.

The collection comprises three separate sections, between which there is no very definite line of demarcation, except for the system of registration.

First.—Bound into folios, more or less according to localities, or nature of map. About 200 such folios, each containing from 20 to 50 maps earlier than 1860, besides others up to 1900. One typewritten catalogue exists.

Second.—A miscellaneous collection, unsuitably designated originals, distributed under vague categories, and not fully indexed. It contains many boundary surveys.

Third.—A large collection, not fully indexed, mostly consisting of original field sections.

In all three collections maps are arranged regardless of date, and though in some cases the maps carry their own evidence as to date and origin, yet a large number have no indication of either. From knowledge of the history of the surveys, gained from correspondence records, journals, and fieldbooks, whilst preparing the *Historical Records of the Survey of India*, I have in many cases been able to ascribe dates and authors, or correct mistakes made in earlier lists and descriptions, but a great deal more could be done in this matter by careful examination and close comparison, one map against another, and against other records.

The historital value of these maps is considerable, though uneven. Many of them make definite reference to interesting historical events, persons, and dates.

As true representations of ground, it must always, however, be borne in mind the earlier surveys were not controlled by rigid triangulation, and cannot be taken as truly accurate over distances more than about ten miles. In hilly areas they would in no way compare with modern survey for accuracy, and in the case of roads and rivers, and possibly also village sites, the detail may very likely have shifted since it was surveyed. But, speaking generally, the maps may be taken as good evidence as to the face of the country at the actual time of survey, especially as to roads, towns, and villages, and boundaries also where these are definitely indicated, though the value of each map depends on the circumstances under which the survey was made, and these may, or may not, be described on the map. If the survey can be identified in the published *Historical Records*, these may give some evidence as to its value.

It is obvious that no great accuracy can be expected from a hasty sketch made during military marches and engagements. On the other hand, the survey of a boundary or a road may be extremely accurate regarding village sites, roads, and rivers, within two or three miles of that road or boundary, as they were at the time of survey. A boundary line shown by a surveyor would be that pointed out to him on the ground, and would not necessarily be that accepted by all parties. In some cases, however, the maps bear the signatures of responsible boundary commissioners.

A description is now given of particular maps which illustrate the sort of historical information that might be drawn from this collection.

BENGAL.—*General Survey of the Calcutta Lands*, MRIO. 52(5), is a large map about 6 feet square. The title shows that it was 'surveyed by Claud Martin, Capt. of Infantry', on scale one inch to a mile. The map is obviously Martin's original plot, and bears his name, hand-printed by himself. It covers an area about 30 miles east and west of Calcutta, and about 50 miles south, to the Sundarbans.

An old office label reads '1760 or 1764, but, as pointed out on page 353 of Vol. I of my *Historical Records* it is impossible that Martin could have made this survey at so early a date, and 1767 is more likely.

The map includes Calcutta on the north, and shows both Old and New Fort William. It shows the whole country in considerable detail, with village sites and names, all the rivers, streams and creeks, and all embankments. It shows names of *tahsils* or *parganas*, and their

approximate extent, and along the borders of the Sundarbans are legends 'Land not Inhabited, called the Sunderbund, full of Woods, Creeks, and Rivers, where a great quantity of Woods are cut'.

Though parts of this map have been incorporated into later maps, this is undoubtedly the original, and as such, of great historical interest. There are two copies, made in 1831, 52(7, 8), which do not exactly follow the original, especially in being twisted round so as to read with North uppermost. Two other copies, 52(4, 6), have been removed from the collection.

There is a similar map, probably also by Martin, that extends northward from Calcutta to the Ganges, bounded by the Hooghly and the Cossimbazar Rivers on the West, and extending eastward more than 50 miles. It is on scale two geographical miles to an inch, and measures 4 feet north to south, and 2½ feet east to west. It bears no date, but its detail and names are reproduced on a map compiled by Rennell on scale 5 miles to an inch, which is dated 1772, and shown by Rennell to include work by Martin. Rennell's map, MRIO. Misc. 1–0–1772, was later included in his *Bengal Atlas*, but the original by Martin, MRIO. 52(12), was probably surveyed between 1768 and 1770, and is our earliest map of the Nadia District and the northern 24-parganas. It shows village and *tahsil* names, rivers and streams, but no embankments.

Claud Martin was the well-known Frenchman, who entered the Company's service after the capture of Pondicherry in 1761; commanded a company of infantry at the battle of Buxar in 1764; was involved in the *batta* mutiny of 1766; was then employed on surveys under Rennell in 24-Parganas, Nadia, Cooch-Behar, and Oudh, till in 1774 he took service with the Wazir of Oudh, and settled at Lucknow. He left money, on his death, for the founding of the schools at Calcutta and Lucknow that became known as La Martinière.

There is an earlier map of the 24-Parganas which shows all the exterior boundaries of the lands assigned to the East India Company in 1757. This survey was made between 1761 and 1764 by Hugh Cameron on the scale of 1½ inches to a mile; the original map, no copies being known, is now at Hathibarkala, register number MRIO 51(6). It is described on p. 13 of my *Historical Records*, and bears interesting remarks such as along the Jamuna River; on one bank 'A fine country belonging to the Company', and on the other bank 'The Nawab's Country'. Across a small patch of the Sundarbans,

'Here those who come to gather Wax & Honey in their season, sacrifice to Juggernauth'.

There is a rough sketch map, MRIO. 164(3), of the Cossimbazar River, here named Bhagirathi, dated 1776, which shows all the protective embankments, and has two long manuscript notes by the author describing the embankments, and the system of conserving the river banks by means of screens of brushwood and reeds.

OUDH.—*The Eastern Boundary of Oudh,* as laid down under the treaty of 10th November, 1801, surveyed between November 1802 and June 1803, by H. Carmichael Smyth, of Bengal Engineers, on the scale of one inch to a mile. This is contained on three maps, MRIO. 18(1); Misc. 6-0-02 and 2-0-03, and shows the boundary from Manikpur on the Ganges to Tanda on the Gogra, with all detail two or three miles on both sides of the boundary. One copy appears to be the original plot, with Smyth's name handprinted, apparently by himself, with copy, and also reduction to quarter-inch scale, made in the Surveyor General's office. The map shows village details and lands very clearly. The boundary of Keewey *pargana,* a detached portion of Oudh, is shown in great detail.

The Surveyor General's detailed instructions to Smyth regarding this survey are found in the Proceedings of the Secret and Political Department, volume 272 of 1802, pages 10-11; consultation of 21st October 1802. It is obvious that, in a case like this, a study of the actual map made by the surveyor must be of the greatest assistance in study of the proceedings that discuss this boundary and the treaty which governs it.

UPPER PROVINCES.—*Boundary between Moradabad District and Kumaun and Garhwal, 1826.* Sketch by N. J. Halhed, Esq., Collector of North Division, Moradabad. Scale 800 yards to an inch. Surveyed by the Collector between 2nd January and 15th April, 1826, and signed by Halhed. The map shows carefully plotted lines of theodolite survey, with note 'Plotted and Sketched under the direction of the Collector, by Alexander Wyatt, apprentice.' There is another note at the east end of the foothills, 'This Survey was not carried to the foot of these hills by reason of the thickness of the Jungle. Their general direction was determined by Bearings taken from Hutsakun.'

This is the original plot; a huge paste-up about 15 feet long, MRIO. Misc. 7-0-26, and there is a reduction made in the Surveyor General's

office on the quarter-inch scale (MRIO. Misc. 4-0-26). The original map has reference to a report which it accompanied. It is obvious that if this report on this boundary still exists, its value would be very greatly increased by reference to this original survey.

MADRAS REVENUE SURVEYS.—The Chingleput District excepted, the earliest district revenue surveys of Madras were made between 1798 and 1815, on scales about one-inch to a mile, by young men trained at the Madras Observatory surveying school, who worked directly under the orders of the district collectors. They are not of a high order of accuracy, but were based on Lambton's triangulation, and showed village sites and names, and distinguished cultivation from waste land. They also showed *taluk* and *pollam* boundaries; roads, and rivers, and tanks. Whilst actual measurements taken from these maps might not be extremely precise, yet the information would be of considerable historical interest in assessing the condition of the country, especially in reading reports and contemporary correspondence.

The original protractions of the survey of Tinnevelly made between 1807 and 1815 are particularly interesting, MRIO. Regr. 2-PT-13 and 147(25). There are 18 sheets on scales, some 1000 yards, and others 2000 yards, to an inch. They show the base-lines and triangulations stations used by the surveyors.

On one sheet is shown the waterfall near the sacred temples of Papanasum: The 'Ruins of Panjahaung Coorchy', and a few miles to the west, 'Monuments of the Officers of 74th Regt.'—Moormen's Monuments'—'Lieut. Collins' & Blake's Monument'. On another sheet two areas are marked near Calcaud as belonging to the estate of 'Mr Young', which are referred to in departmental correspondence.

These Tinnevelly sheets, like many of the others, are in a sad state; the paper has perished and is so fragile as to crumble away every time it is handled.

PONDICHERRY.—There are several copies of maps made between 1816 and 1818 of the territories belonging to the French Settlements of Pondicherry and Karikal at the time they were restored to the French at the close of the Napoleonic Wars—MRIO. Misc. 3-0-16; 4-0-20. They are signed, 18th March, 1818, by the British Commissioner, Mr. J. S. Fraser, and by two French Commissioners, le Comte Du Puys and M. Joseph Dayot. The lands were surveyed by Duncan

Sim, of Engineers, and distinguish 'the Possessions held in Jagheer, with their Limits, . . . laid down from actual Inspection and Survey of the villages in June, 1816, and agreeable to the Official Lists and communications in the Revenue Department.'

BOMBAY TEAK FORESTS.—There is a map, scale 4 miles to an inch, from surveys by Captain Thatcher and Lieutenant Robert Campbell, covering the teak forests of Dharampur State from Daman eastward to the Ghats, to which are attached correspondence with the Superintendent of Marine, Bombay, dated between October, 1807 and April, 1808, reporting on the quality of the teak trees, and the possibilities of extracting timber from the forests, and floating it down to the sea by the rivers that are shown on the map. This correspondence has not been found elsewhere, but if it is preserved amongst the records of the Bombay Government, then it would be far more easy to follow if read in consultation with Thatcher's map.

Enough has been given to show the various interests that are touched by these maps, and it is not possible to give more samples in this short paper. There are many detailed boundary surveys—boundaries of Rajputana states; of the Nizam's Dominions, of Kashmir, of Tripura;—the boundary with Nepal, showing individual boundary pillars. There are large-scale maps of Forts, cities, cantonments and harbours. There is a large collection of original maps of Java and of the eastern islands earlier than 1816.

These maps are mostly in very fragile condition. There has never at any time been sufficient staff for their maintenance in good condition, and if early action is not taken, and money allotted to protect them from further decay and damage, the greater part will soon have perished. Their custody is a heavy responsibility that might well be shared with, or transferred to, the Historical Records Commission or the National Archives of India. The maps are intimately connected with the development and history of India, and it would be an excellent thing if funds could be provided to put the whole collection into a first-class state of repair, and to prepare and publish a complete catalogue of all manuscript maps earlier than 1860.

For easy reference it would be desirable to arrange them as one series geographically, by Provinces or suitable localities. It might be possible to find dates and names of authors for many that have never yet been identified, if they were carefully examined against

other maps, and other records, reports, journals, and fieldbooks. At present, however, the maps are generally in too frail a condition to stand the handling that the most careful examination would entail.

Even now the Survey of India has frequent calls to supply copies or extracts from these old maps. In their present state the search for information takes much time and labour, and the maps, when found, are often in too delicate a state to warrant tracing or photography.

Besides the maps, the Survey of India holds a considerable collection of manuscript fieldbooks—journals—and historical and statistical memoirs, dating from 1760. These are of the utmost interest, especially with regard to local customs, village industries and agriculture.

LAWS OF ARCHIVAL SCIENCE

S. R. RANGANATHAN

2. *Second Law*

THE first article[1] showed that the first law of library science becomes the anti-first law of archival science and that the anti-first law of the former, the first law of the latter. A similar thing happens also in the case of the second law. While the difference in regard to the first law was traceable to the difference in the value and status attached to books and public records viewed as physical commodities, the difference in regard to the second law is traceable to the difference in the origin of the thought-content of books and public records and the possible users.

20. *Second Law of Library Science*

Books may be original or compiled. The former originate from the brains of creative thinkers. Such thinkers radiate thought because they cannot help doing so. The thought-radiation from them is like radiation from the sun. They are alike in being the common property of one and all, without any reservation whatever having been ever contemplated by the originator; there has never been any intention of secrecy. Compilers write books consciously for an audience and the larger the audience the more pleased they are. Hence the Second Law of Library Science: Books are for all.

The contents of books may belong to one or more of three categories: wisdom, knowledge and information. All are entitled to wisdom and knowledge in the measure of their capacity. The information usually given in books are also such as admit of universal transmission and absorption. There is, therefore, no need to deny the use of books to any in the world. This too points to the validity of the Second Law as stated above.

As for possible users, it is in the interest of the community and the State that one and all should become wise, learned and fully informed. The State, therefore, wants that the capacity to use books should be developed in all and that books should be supplied freely and even

[1] *The Indian Archives*, Vol. I, No. 2, pp. 118ff.

aggressively to one and all in order to exercise and exploit that capacity in the fullest measure. This approach too points to the supremacy of the Second Law of Library Science in the form: Books are for all.

21. *Second Law of Archival Science*

Public records, on the other hand, get originated neither by creative souls nor by pedestrian compilers; they get originated in the day-to-day administration of public affairs and in the executive and legislative deliberation forming the basis of administration. They do not embody radiation of pure thought; they only embody deliberations and communications inherent in particular contexts and descriptive of particular moments and localities. They do not radiate wisdom, knowledge or information of universal value or validity; they only preserve specialized information with value and validity only in the particular setting of the daily transaction of the State to which they relate. At the time a public record originates, its thought-content is meant to reach only specified persons and the necessity of administration marks it as a secret not to be revealed to others. As time advances and as its thought-content loses its nascency, the originating department slowly lifts the veil of secrecy and transmits it for deposit in the archives. By that time it has only antiquarian interest. An archival collection can, therefore, interest only a select few and the Second Law of Archival Science has to be taken as 'Public records are for the chosen few.'

It is true that time will slowly dissolve the covering of secrecy in which a record is shrouded at the beginning. It can then gain the status at least of information, if not of wisdom and knowledge, which may be thrown open to be acquired by anybody. But even then the information embodied in it would have no universal appeal. It cannot spread itself, even with the aid of the most aggressive form of publicity, except among a select few who happen to specialize in digging into old records. The information embodied in the several archives is too atomized to acquire that interest which continuity of exposition endows to printed books and which can, therefore, attract the attention of all. It is true that the information contained in a year book, directory, dictionary, encyclopaedia, bibliography, in any reference book, to put it in general terms—has no continuity of exposition and yet it appeals to all. That is because lack of continuity in exposition is compensated for by exhaustiveness of information in the field of

knowledge chosen by it and that field is usually of considerable extension. Indeed, size for size the extension of the field of knowledge covered is immensely greater than that of even an ordinary book. It is by sacrifice of continuity of exposition that economy in space is secured to make the volume handy and reference expeditious and easy. Every reader knows it and he goes to it willingly—nay prefers it when he wants specific information in the field of knowledge which falls within the zone of his interest. The tendency today is to cover all knowledge with a handful of such reference books and provide the up-to-the-minute information which may be sought by anybody on any specific topic. But the extension of the field of information covered by any record and even by a complete file of records will be extremely narrow. If numerous files are taken together to extend the range of information covered, continuity of exposition will be lost without any adequate addition to extension. This persistence of atomization of information and narrowness of extension also makes the Second Law of an Archival Science take the form 'Public records are for the chosen few.'

Again, as the thought-content of a public record is only information relating to a specialized context, it can never acquire the quality that makes it obligatory for the State to have it disseminated qua record among one and all of the citizens. A knowledge of its contents by every citizen without exception need not be enforced or attempted. What it can and should attempt is to encourage their being exploited by experts who have learned the technique of weaving the atomized information scattered in them into a whole of passable extension and continuous exposition. That technique is a speciality of historians. Even among them, it is not every historian that goes to the original archives. We have indeed a hierarchy of workers among historians. Two distinct groups stand out clearly at the two ends of this hierarchy: they may be called the spinners and the weavers respectively. It is the handwork of weavers that everybody sees at the final stage of consumption. The thread loses its identity in the woven fabric. The weaver's personality and aroma may be sensed even by a child reader. The amount of labour and skill put in by the spinner can be realized only by a few experts. The weaver may be called the Historiologist and his art, Historiology, the spinner may be called the Historiographer and his art, Historiography. Even among the narrow section of the species homo known as historians we have, therefore, to look for

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users of public records only among the still narrower sub-species historiographers. This delimits considerably the range of operation of the Second Law of Archival Science and places considerable emphasis on the epithet *chosen* when it is enunciated in the form: Public records are for the chosen few.

23. *Alternative Form*

In order to dig out and extract from the Second Law of Library Science more fully all its possible implications, it is usually thrown into the alternative form: 'Every reader his book'. In a similar way, the Second Law of Archival Science too needs to be thrown into an alternative form in order to make it disclose all that it means. Even in its first form, the Second Law of Library Science has many far-reaching and revolutionizing implications.[1] But in its first form, the Second Law of Archival Science appears to demand of the archivist nothing more than what the First Law demanded, viz. to perfect the technique of preservation. It permits him to make the door of the archives as narrow as he pleases; it perhaps tells him even that he may without impunity keep it bolted most of the time; and it assures him certainly that he would not be disturbed by frequent callers in his work of fumigating, mending and rejuvenating the records! Indeed it hides the human side of his job and discloses none of its intentions about what he should do to facilitate their being used by the chosen few. To make it yield results in this level, we must throw it in the form: 'Every user his record.' In this form the Second Law of Archival Science has much in common with the Second Law of Library Science. The deductions from them run along parrallel lines. The deductions from the Second Law of Library Science have been worked out elsewhere.[2] We can explore the deductions from the Second Law of Archival Science in a similar manner. It throws certain obligations on users as well as on the staff.

24. *Obligations of Users*

The obligations of the users of public records are naturally more severe than those of printed books. This severity is imposed by the

1 Ranganathan (S. R.)—*Five laws of library science*, 1931 (Madras Library Association publication, series 2). Chap. 2.

2 *Ibid.*, Chap. 4.

uniqueness of the record. The greatest imaginable care must be exercised in handling the material. Dry and clean hand is absolutely essential; far gentler handling is called for; records in a perishing state must be consulted in special places fitted with mechanical contrivances designed to obviate injury of any kind to them while in use; in extreme cases, the turning of the leaves or sheets must be left to the members of the staff, who are adepts in that art. The users must agree without protest of any kind to consult the records in the immediate presence of the staff whenever asked to do so; they should not advance the snobbish argument; 'I cannot read in the presence of anybody else—not even my wife;' nor should they ask for public records to be taken into the privacy of their own study in their homes. The printed books cry hoarse—but, alas, without being heeded to—against the marginal and interlinear marks and lines in pencil and even in ink which fall to their fate; they tolerate them under unheeded protest as they feel that their destiny is after all the readers' hands, however unkind and callous those may be; for, they know that if their present embodiment is disfigured and mangled, they can transmigrate into another body (edition or copy) and that other readers can have access to them in that body. But the public records depend for their value on their present body. It is, therefore, the duty of every user to leave for the use of others every public record used by him exactly in the same condition in which he found it exactly, exactly, exactly—yes; no underlining; no marginal notes; no interference of any sort can be tolerated by the Second Law of Archival Science.

241. *Rules of Archives*

The rules of archives have therefore to be very restrictive and severe. Some rules may fix a time-limit before which records cannot be released for the use of every user; some rules may impose restraint on the movement of users within the archives; there may even be a drastic rule imposing the extreme penalty of expulsion and refusal for admission if certain kinds of misdemeanour be discovered or even suspected or anticipated in a particular user or prospective user. It is not unusual for the rules of an archive insisting upon an introduction and guarantee from one or other of specified persons before a user can be admitted. The Second Law would impose such rigid rules, since each public record in its original condition is intended for the use of every other user of the present as well as the future; it would

ask for conformity to the rules in good humour; it would appeal for the development of a high and specialized civic sense in all historiographers.

25. *Obligations of the Staff*

The Second Law of Archival Science imposes equally severe obligations on the staff. These centre round (1) reference service, (2) cataloguing, and (3) classification. The qualities and training demanded by these obligations are totally different from those demanded by the First Law. The latter wants a staff of technicians; the former wants a staff of librarians—bibliographers, cataloguers and classifiers.

251. *Reference Service*

The reference service in an archives is very different from that in a library of printed books. The archive has unique records and acquaintance with them can be acquired only within the archive in question. Many of the users of a library of printed books have already become familiar elsewhere with the books housed in it and depend on reference service within the library only with regard to new type of books and to a new permutation and pursuit of books. But the users of an archive have to depend on reference service for everything, as its materials have not yet been digested and broadcast. This implies that establishment of contact between the right user and the right record requires an arduous acquisition of intimacy with records and a sympathetic understanding of the exact needs of historiographers.

252. *Cataloguing*

Such a task would be humanly impossible if the records are not properly calendared, catalogued, described, digested and abstracted. An archival catalogue—using this term in a general sense—can therefore be considered in five levels of increasing fullness corresponding with the five processes mentioned above. The code for the catalogue of archives has, therefore, to be much more elaborate and intricate than foi the catalogue of libraries of printed books.

253. *Classification*

The unique and hence unfamiliar nature of the contents of archives would make dependence on their proper arrangement even more compulsory. The arrangement of the entries too can make or mar the

usefulness of the catalogue. It is only a carefully built filiatory arrangement that can be helpful. In other words, the efficiency of archival service would depend on correct and minute classification even more imperatively than the efficiency of library service. In library classification the subject matter forms the primary basis of classification and so it will have to be in archival classification. But in addition the latter would demand an equally high weightage to be given to the chronological factor. The time order is as important as subject order in archival classification. Lastly the extremely atomized state of the information contained in each record will put a far greater strain on the notation of archival classification than that of library classification. This is a consequence of the fact that the call number should be an exact, individualizing or co-extensive translation of the thought-content and the genesis of each record into the artificial language of ordinal numbers constituting the preferred scheme of classification.

(*to be continued*)

VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY

S. CHAKRAVORTI

I HAD the opportunity of visiting last February the Virginia State Library in Richmond, Virginia, which is one of the most modern archives buildings in the U.S.A. A constructive criticism of this institution mainly from a technical standpoint will be of interest to many archivists. The State archives form a part of the State Library and is under its administrative control. Though this is quite a sound plan for small states or young archival agencies with small collections, it is not likely to be very efficient in the case of large States or central archives whose collections are enormous and, consequently, archival duties more exacting.

The library and archives are housed in a well-planned modern building (plate 5) near the capital and occupies a very central place. It is a four-storeyed building excluding the basement in the shape of a rectangular block 223′ long and 128′ wide. The spacious basement houses the fumigation and cleaning room, the photographic laboratory, the rare book room and a part of the stacks (see plate 1). The receiving room, repair room, archives reading room and the archives catalogue are all compactly arranged in the first floor (see plate 2) and the rest of the building is occupied by the Library and the Supreme Court (see plates 3 & 4).

The arrangement for receiving, cleaning, fumigating and sorting the records is good and the space provided for this purpose enables the institution to handle sudden heavy accession without any difficulty. In certain archives, the entire absence of such technical facilities or the lack of reserve capacity even where such facilities exist, have been known to act as a serious bottle-neck. The vacuum fumigation plant is of the modern rectangular type but seems to have an outsize Accumulator. The photographic laboratory has been well-planned in respect of the flow of work and the access to the dark rooms has been so arranged as to keep out light and yet make ingress and egress easy without the operators' having to push a double or rotary door. The laboratory has also been , as it should be, kept as far away as possible from all heavy machinery to eliminate vibration. A special mention must be made of the rare book room (plate 6) which has two rows of study cubicles with all partitions made of glass and

stainless metal thus creating a very neat and modernistic effect. Both the rows of study cubicles are clearly visible from the control desk of the librarian on duty and helps him to keep an eye on the scholars. This type of transparent study cubicles is probably the best answer today to scholars with exceptional acquisitive tendencies who are not altogether rare in a rare book room in any country. In the basement there is quite a small but comfortable lecture room—a very useful feature forgotten in many libraries and archives.

In the first floor (the ground floor is called the first floor in the U.S.A.) are located the receiving room, repairing shop, the archives reading room, etc. besides parts of the library. The loading platform is so located and arranged that a standard truck can come up to the platform and has its floor level with it. This makes loading and unloading easier and saves much labour. There is a spacious lift near by which conveys the incoming material to the fumigation and cleaning room in the basement. The archives reading room is well lighted and neatly furnished with one wing reserved for maps. The servicing desk is conveniently situated and is within easy reach of the stack elevator and the dumb waiter. The maps are kept in a separate part of the reading room (plate 2) and can be readily consulted. If the map collection is not too large this arrangement has many practical advantages. Maps are not easily portable like books and they are less easily handled. If they are stored permanently in the map wing of the archives reading room much of the physical wear and tear in transportation from the stack and in servicing generally can be eliminated. The archives catalogue is rightly located in a room adjacent to the reading room. All those places where public access must be easy have been kept together on the first floor by an intelligent distribution of such places and all areas where archival material goes through any stage of preparation from reception to storage have been effectively protected against easy public access (see plate 2).

The building is air-conditioned and the incoming air is made free of dust and soot, of which there is no dearth owing to its central location, by the use of a plant called 'Precipitron'. In this machine dust particles are precipitated by electrostatic pressure on thin metallic baffle plates maintained at a very high voltage. It has the advantage of having no moving parts at all. The recurring expenses are small and periodic cleaning is all the attention that is necessary, but it must be serviced by a trained technical man. Though these machines

are highly efficient in removing dust particles even of very small dimensions, the one operating in the State Library building did not give the same impression. I observed more than barely detectable amount of soot and dust in certain parts of the stack and near the ducts and this, it was explained to me by the Librarian, was due to lack of trained hands for the proper maintenance of the 'Precipitron'.

The stack equipment of this institution needs a special mention (see plate 7). It is quite different from the standard adjustable library stack. Though the tier height is the same, i.e. about 7½ feet, instead of being supported by vertical steel partitions, the shelf in sections is suspended from vertical hollow steel uprights by cantilever supports, the result being a continuous steel shelving. Since no space is wasted in accommodating the vertical partitions and boxes or volumes of any length limited to the width of the shelf can be arranged contiguously (plate 8), the net storage capacity increases considerably. According to Dr. Van Schreeven, the State Archivist, the saving in storage space by this innovation is 38%. But this in my opinion is an overestimate and the net saving in storage space will probably be somewhat less. A part of the advantage of continuous horizontal shelving is off-set by the fact that the depth of shelves decreases owing to their being placed closer to one another in actual practice (see plate 9). It is possible to interchange shelves of smaller or larger width without any difficulty. Though the continuous shelving is strong enough for its purpose, the arrangement as a whole is much less rigid and rugged than the standard library type of shelving. Since the fixed uprights occur every 9 feet (see plate 3) and these movable columns at every 3 feet intervals, it is possible to dismantle complete sections for working space or for the temporary storage of archival material in its original packing boxes until it can be arranged properly for permanent storage on shelves.

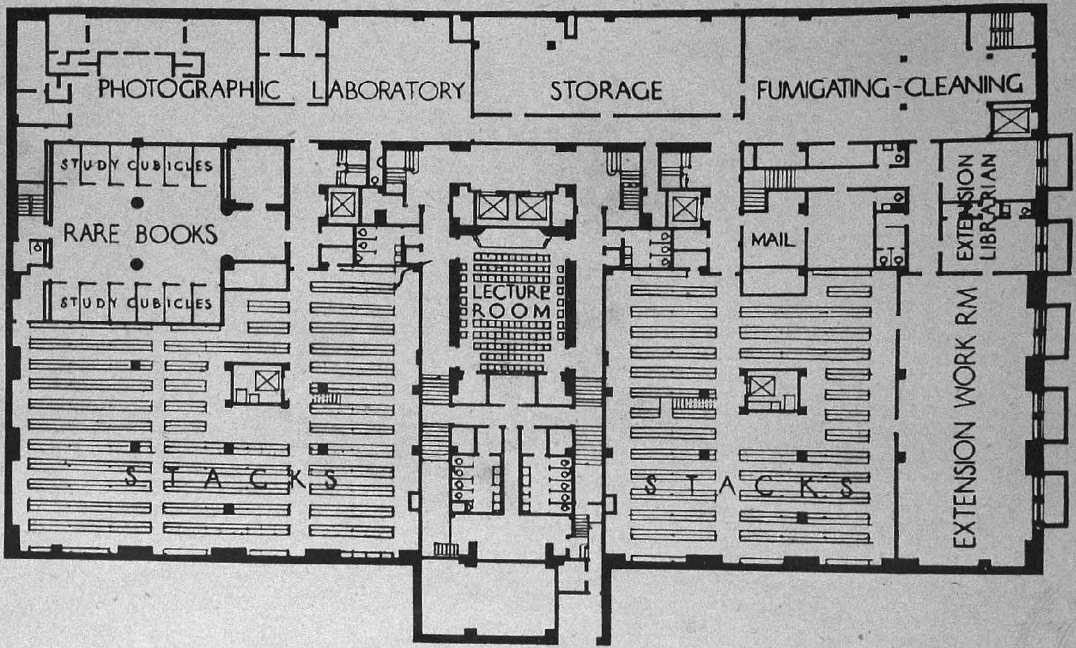
In the photographic laboratories considerable work is done in producing microfilm and photostat copies of records. The microfilm copies are kept in a safety vault. The microfilm collection is not large and consequently not much thought appears to have been given to their proper storage and card cataloguing.

The repair shop under the management of Mr. William J. Barrow engaged my attention for a couple of days because of my obvious interest in the repair and preservation of records. Mr. Barrow, the inventor of the Barrow Machine (see plate 10) for laminating

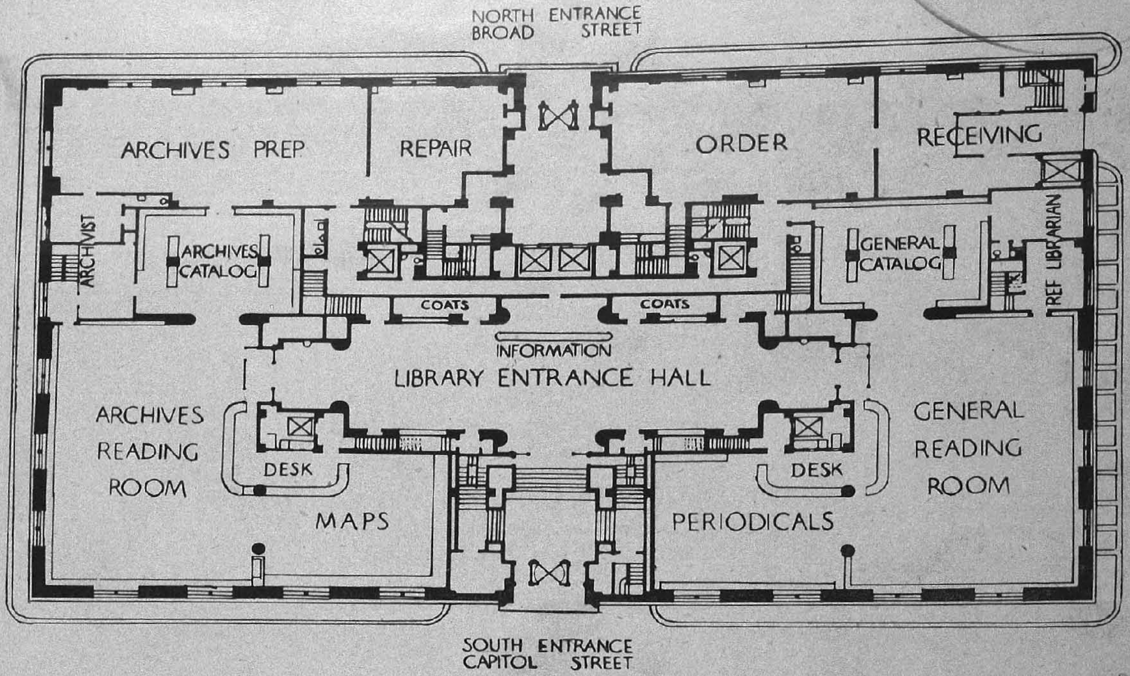
documents with cellulose acetate foil is not an employee of the Virginia State Library, but his repairing shop is situated conveniently in the building and he has a contract for repairing the fragile documents of the State Archives. He is free to accept any repairing job from outside. This is a satisfactory arrangement for small repositories who cannot afford to have the exclusive services of technical experts or whose repairing programme does not justify their full time employment. Besides, there are not many experts on document preservation and the services of such experienced persons should be made readily available to the public.

Mr. Barrow washes all documents with solutions of calcium hydroxide and sodium bicarbonate as a matter of routine to remove the acidity which is known to have a deleterious effect on paper. He has devised ways and means for doing this quickly and methodically (see plate 11). He, however, is fortunate in not having to deal with washable inks in carrying out this rather elaborate process of washing. After the documents have been washed and dried, each document is placed progressively between two cellulose acetate foils, two sheets of tissue paper, two sheets of tracing cloth and two heavy pulp boards. This sandwich is then heated in his machine for about 30 seconds and then allowed to pass through the two calendering rolls (plate 10). The machine returns the sandwich to the operator who then strips the laminated document from between the tracing cloth. The cycle is then repeated with another document. Some of the steps such as washing in the Barrow process have been seriously questioned, but a thorough experimental investigation has not as yet been taken up to settle these points finally. In order to verify a few technical points in which both of us were equally interested, Mr. Barrow and myself carried out a few experiments with laminated documents and our findings will be discussed in a separate article.

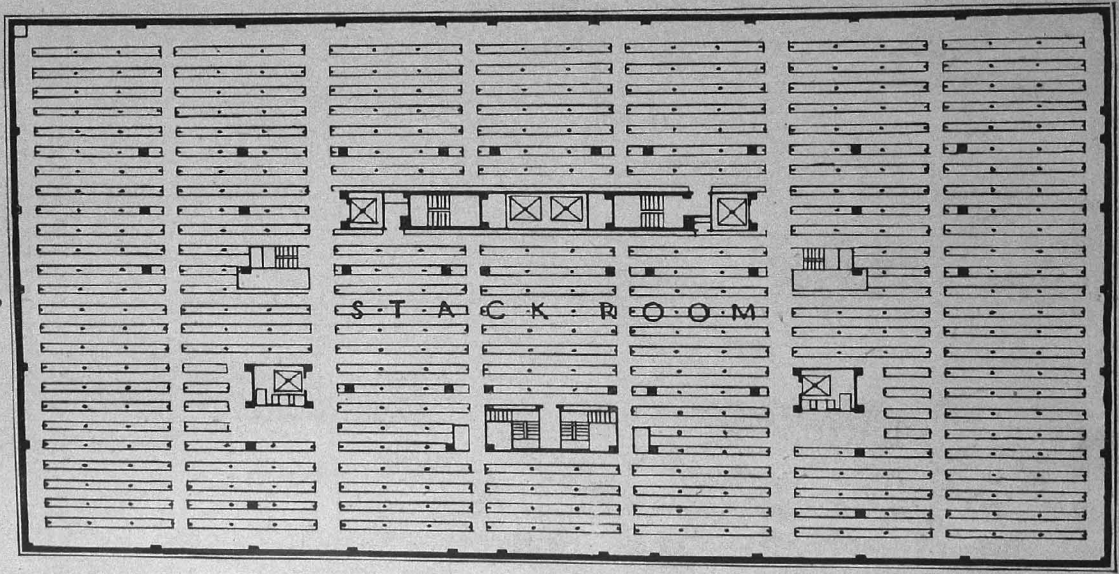
The Virginia State Library has been fortunate in having on its staff at least two very able and energetic persons in Dr. William J. Van Schreeven, the State Archivist and Mr. William J. Barrow, their technical expert on repairing of documents. Dr. Van Schreeven has given considerable thought to the question of archives building and stack equipment and though one may not agree with all his views, it must be admitted that the Virginia State Library is one of the most modern and well-planned archival institutions from a technical standpoint and provides a model for small states in the U.S.A. and abroad.



BASEMENT PLAN

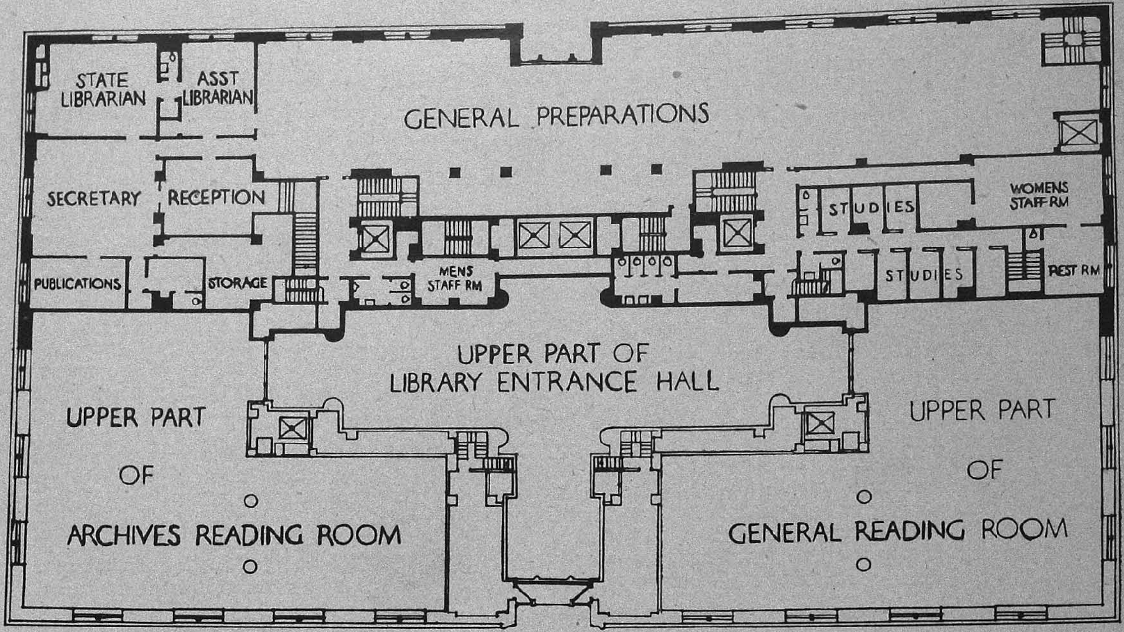


FIRST FLOOR PLAN 128′ × 223′



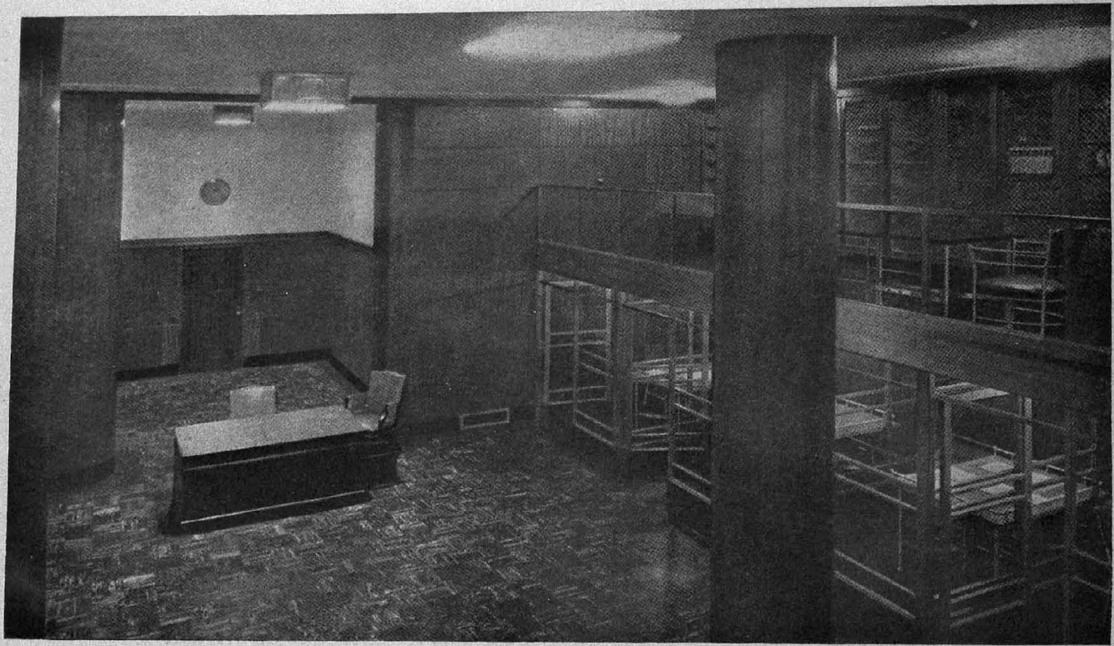
PLAN OF STOCK. DECK BELOW THIRD FLOOR

CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY



Second Floor Plan

VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY, RICHMOND



RARE BOOK ROOM WITH MODERN STUDY CUBICLES

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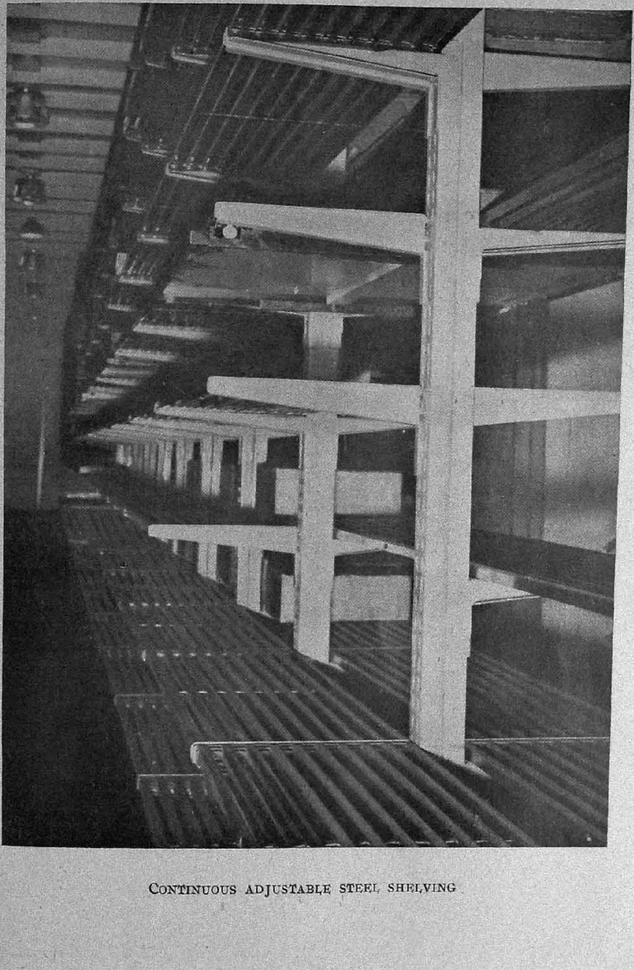
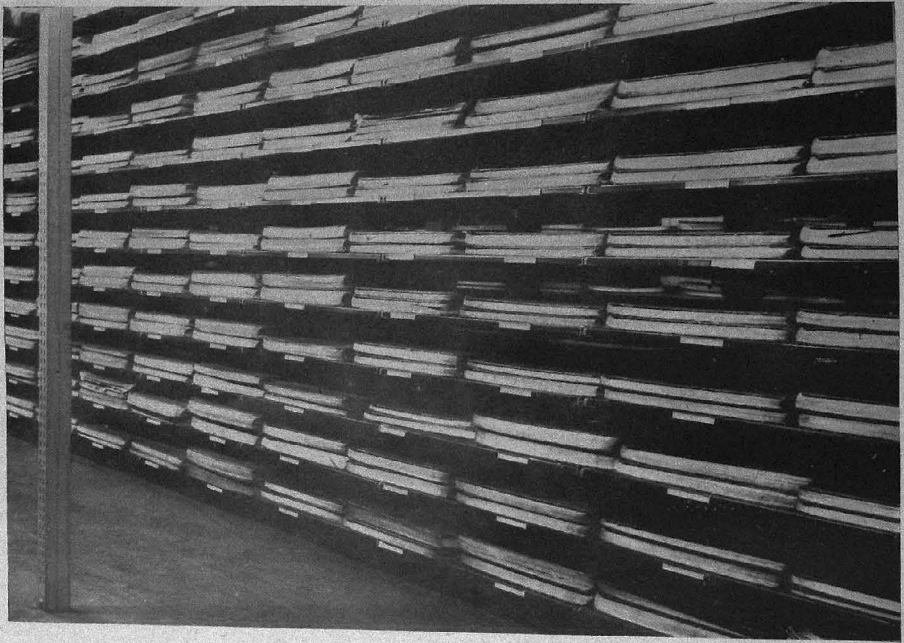
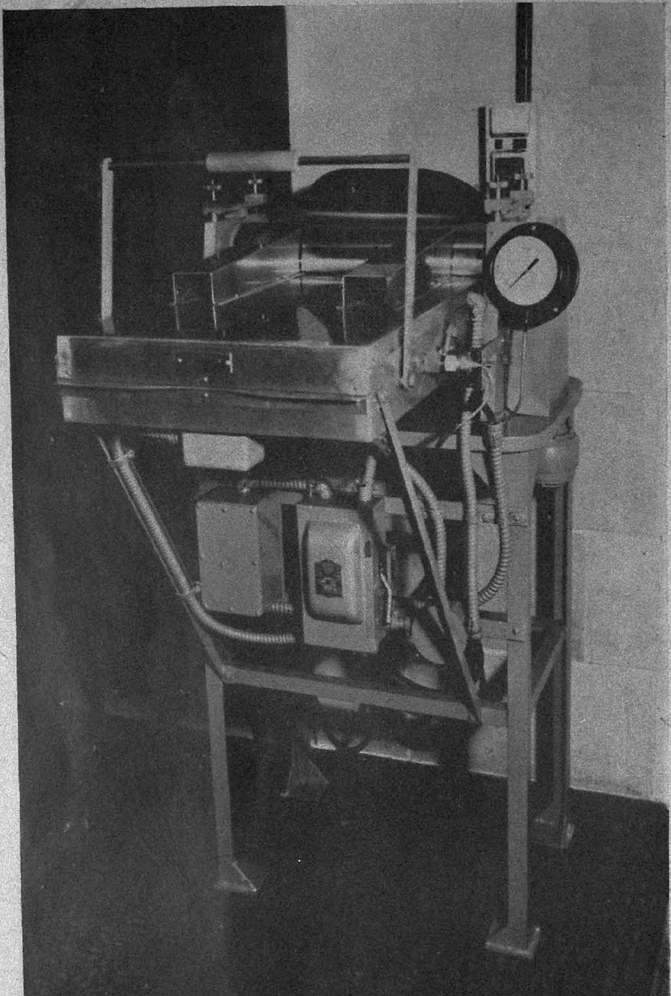


CONTINUOUS ADJUSTABLE STEEL SHELVING

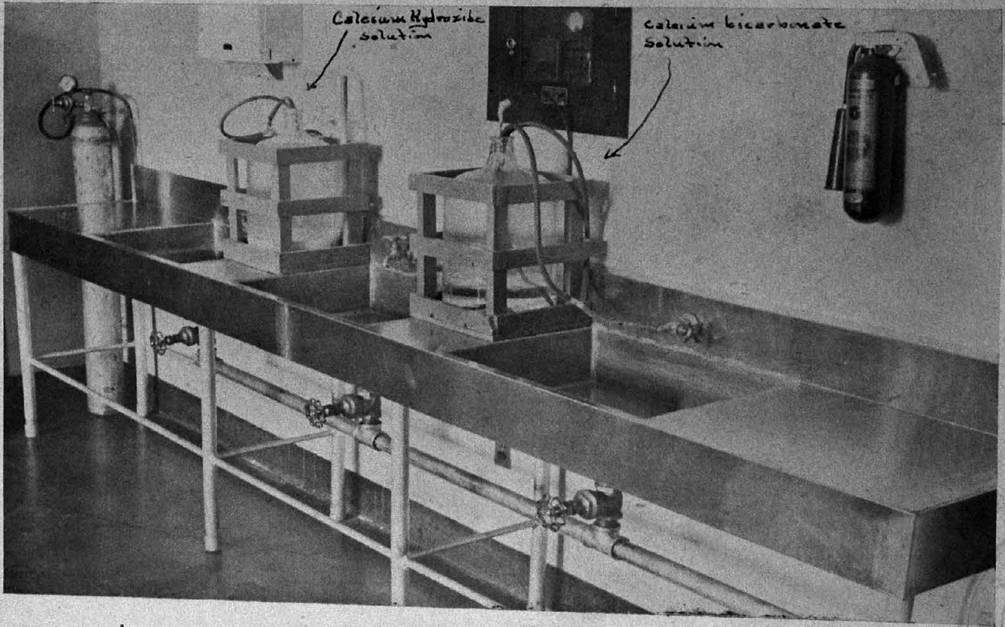
Boxes containing documents have been stored contiguously. Note the extension shelf on which the document cases can be rested.



VOLUMES STORED HORIZONTALLY ON THE CONTINUOUS SHELVING



BARROW MACHINE FOR LAMINATING DOCUMENTS



ARRANGEMENT FOR NEUTRALISING THE ACIDITY OF DECAYED DOCUMENTS PRIOR TO LAMINATION

CONN. PUBLIC LIBRARY 25 OCT 1948 MADRAS

EFFECTS OF CHANGES OF SOVEREIGNTY ON ARCHIVES

ERNST POSNER

IT IS still too early to estimate the extent of the destruction that totalitarian warfare has inflicted upon the archives of Europe, and it is obviously impossible to predict what losses may be expected in the future. After the war it will almost certainly be found that, apart from complete annihilation, many records will have suffered from inadequate storage conditions while in 'protective custody,' that well-organized fonds will have become disarranged, and that, in general, years of strenuous work will be needed to restore order to the archival repositories of Europe. But, in addition to rehabilitation and rearrangement of archival materials, there will arise other problems that our European colleagues must face and try to solve on that still distant day that will bring peace to a tormented world. Although, some 'new order' may restrict the states of Europe in the future exercise of their sovereignty, it is certain that once again the map of the world will be redrafted, that new bodies politic will emerge, that territory will change hands, and that, with the territory, archives will be transferred from one state to another. As archivists we may well interest ourselves in the question of how archives have been treated when provinces were ceded in the past as a result of war or peaceful negotiation. The diplomatic history of Europe, and to a lesser extent that of this country, furnishes numerous examples from which conclusions may be drawn as to the nature and extent of the archival problems which accompany a change of sovereignty. This does not seem an inappropriate time for a study of the question. It was in 1915, three years before the end of the first World War, that Louis Jacob, a French doctor of jurisprudence, found it opportune to set forth the principles and determine the rules that had come to be accepted by the nations of Europe with respect to the delivery of archives by the ceding to the annexing state. His monograph is still the only general study in this particular field, but since its approach quite naturally is that of the jurist, not that of the archivist, and since the archival clauses of the treaties of 1919 have resulted in a new, highly controversial literature on the subject, I may be justified in setting before American archivists the problem, a discussion of which they have been spared thus far.

It is evident that the treatment of archives in connection with the cession and annexation of territory has been and is still in the first place a matter of international law. If a province or a part of it is ceded and annexed by another state, a new sovereignty is substituted

for the former one. As a result of this substitution, the public property within the ceded territory becomes the property of the successor state. During the last centuries archives everywhere have come to be considered as part of the public property, sharing this character with public grounds, buildings, fortifications, and so on. So far the consequences of a change of sovereignty for the archives seem to be obvious: the archives share the fate of the territory; the records follow the flag. But even if this is generally admitted, does it follow that *all* the records relating to the ceded territory must be delivered up, including those of a purely historical character and those preserved with the central administrative bodies and in the national depositories of the ceding state? For example, when in 1871 Alsace-Lorraine was annexed by Germany, did the latter obtain all the records relating to the two provinces, even those of the Archives Nationales, of the archives of the Ministry of War, and of the other archival establishments, or only those of Metz, Strasbourg, and Colmar? When Austria-Hungary was dissected and divided among seven states, did it mean that each of these states received its share of the records in the Haus-, Hof-, and Staatsarchiv in Vienna along with the railroads and the barracks? Because of the increasing centralization of administration and because of the setting up of archival repositories, the transfer of archives from state to state involves problems so difficult and complex as to require definite provision in international treaties. It is in the so-called technical clauses of the treaties that regulations as to the treatment of archives are found.

Peace instruments of the Middle Ages and of early modern times frequently did not contain regulatory clauses of this kind. In the period of the patrimonial and feudal state a principality was a cluster of properties of the prince and of feudal services owed him by his vassals. If territory was annexed the new owner needed the documents that were evidence of prior and present ownership of the property and of the feudal services due to him as the successor of the former lord. Private law required that title to property had to be delivered with the property itself and there did not in this period exist a clear-cut distinction between private and public law. Cession of territory was accomplished in the form of a transfer of real estate. When clauses referring to archives began to appear in international treaties, they were exclusively aimed at the lawful delivery of the documents that could serve as the evidence of ownership of feudal rights acquired. Only as private and public law tended to become distinct spheres and as sovereignty began to be conceived as a distinguishing mark of the emerging modern state was a more specific provision adopted; the cessionary was required to deliver all titles and documents establishing the sovereignty of and the rights to the ceded territory. The archival document as the proof of territorial rights received its utmost

significance in the policy of Louis XIV. Whenever a country was conquered by the French armies, legal experts began to search its archives for titles on which new claims could be based. Louis XIV called this discovering new countries. The archives no longer followed the flag; the flag seemed to follow the archives.

During this early period of the formation of the state and of the history of archives, the successor state could not be interested in getting the administrative records of the annexed territory because administration in the sense of a continuous action of the government did not exist. In the seventeenth century the picture began to change. The emerging modern state entered new fields of activity, set up an ever expanding machinery for their administration, and began to accumulate records as a by-product of administrative work. In an age of steadily growing competition between the European states, when each of them was fervently striving to increase its economic and military power, techniques of administration became secrets that were to be guarded as closely as the production methods of an industrial concern of our day. For the first time we learn of large-scale removals of records from provinces in danger of being invaded in order to prevent the enemy from administering, that is, exploiting them; for administration has become dependent on records. It was only logical that, when territory changed hands, the new lord wanted to obtain the records of the prior administration. Peace treaties of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, therefore, show that gradually a formula came into use that took into consideration the administrative needs of the successor state. Their archival clauses were no longer confined to titles of dominion and sovereignty. They began to provide for a transfer of all the letter books, documents, papers, and archives pertaining to or belonging to the ceded territory. All these materials, if they were preserved in the territory, became the property of the annexing state, and if they had been removed in the course of hostilities they were to be restored to their former place of custody. But what was to happen if, as an effect of the cession, parts of a province were separated from their former capital where the records relating to them were preserved? It was obvious that in such a case the successor state needed more than the records found in the territory itself. The cessionary, therefore, had to promise to deliver the records pertaining to the ceded region from the archives of its former administrative centre. On the other hand, since it was realized that the archives of the ceded territory might contain documents of importance to the cessionary, the acquirer had to retrocede them to the former possessor. Where a separation of the records in accordance with the new status appeared to be infeasible, the contracting parties promised each other copies of documents which they might need in the future.

The effects of a change of sovereignty on archives thus became more complex, and the clauses of international treaties correspondingly more articulate. A definite procedure for the delivery of archival material was being worked out. The contracting parties stipulated that special commissioners should be nominated for this purpose and that the extradition and retraction of records should be effectuated within certain time limits, extending from two to six months. Not always were these archival clauses faithfully observed. After the diplomats had finished their work and ratifications of the treaty had been exchanged, the ceding party frequently withheld whatever documents it could, hoping that some day it would recover the territory that it had been forced to yield. The result was that in the next treaty there had to be inserted retrospective and retroactive clauses aimed at forcing the reluctant state to pay its archival debts and to deliver documents that should have been handed over decades ago.

All difficulties remained on a minor scale, however, for reasons which can readily be explained. In the first place, in spite of the expansion and intensification of administrative activities, the absolute state was less centralized than one would assume. In many respects the different provinces enjoyed a considerable degree of independent life, and the records of the provincial authorities would tell the story so completely that, in case of annexation, the acquiring state would not need to claim the records from the central authorities of the cessionary. The customary wording of the archival clauses, 'records belonging to' or 'records pertaining to the ceded territory,' was never interpreted to mean anything else than the archives found within the territory and possibly those of the former provincial capital if that capital remained outside of the cession. Delivery and disintegration of archival bodies were thus confined to those of the outlying regions, and the records of the central government were left untouched. Such a clause, however, could very well be interpreted in an all inclusive sense, and that is what happened for the first time at the end of the eighteenth century. With the third division of Poland, one of the major states had been wiped off the map of Europe. Russia had laid her hands on the central fonds in Warsaw but her partners were not willing to let her get away with her booty. Therefore, it was agreed that there be allotted to each of the partitioning powers the portion of the Polish archives that pertained to its share of the territory. The partition was carried out with the greatest strictness and rigor. It was applied not only to the unbound papers. Even bound books were taken apart if it appeared that some of the documents copied in them referred to Prussian possessions and others to Austrian or Russian possessions. All the dangerous consequences of the provision, formerly so harmless, that records pertaining to the ceded province must fall to the annexing state, were thus revealed for the first time.

In the following years, so abundant in changes of sovereignty, what has been called the 'principle of pertinence' was more and more enforced by the victorious state. It called for a complete delivery of all the records whether preserved in local repositories, in regional agencies remaining outside the ceded territory, or in central agencies and in central establishments of the cessionary. Very soon Prussia was to experience its effects. She lost most of her former Polish possessions by terms of the Treaty of Tilsit that stipulated delivery of the following archival materials to the new Grand Duchy of Warsaw: 'The archives containing the titles of ownership, documents and papers in general whatsoever relating to the countries, territories, domains, estates that H.M. the King of Prussia has ceded under the present treaty and also the maps and plans of the fortified places, citadels, castles, and fortifications situated in the ceded countries.' Once again the extradition comprised not only local and regional materials but also records of the central agencies and even the holdings of the Privy State Archives in Berlin. The travelling era of records had been inaugurated, as the following case shows even more clearly. In the same Treaty of Tilsit the Kingdom of the Netherlands obtained the Prussian province of Ostfriesland. Central records relating to the province were delivered from Berlin; were in 1815 turned over to Hanover together with the territory; and, finally, were returned to the Privy State Archives in Berlin when Hanover was swallowed by Prussia in 1866.

Wholesale extradition of records in connection with a change of sovereignty when conscientiously carried out proved to be a painstaking and time consuming procedure. Prussia set the record when after the Congress of Vienna of 1815 she claimed all the record materials relating to territory ceded to her by Saxony. The Prussian commissioners took their task so seriously, insisting on the delivery of thousands of binders dating back to the seventeenth century, that the work had not been finished when in 1866 war between Prussia and Saxony made its continuation impossible. But the Saxon archivists could not rejoice for long. When peaceful relations between the two countries had been restored, the extradition problem of 1815 was reopened and records were transferred until 1883. Needless to say, this transfer of records in 'slow motion' has left serious gaps in the holdings of the Saxon State Archives.

Another case of wholesale extradition of archival materials did not have any better results. When in 1831 Belgium seceded from the Kingdom of the Netherlands, all the archives, maps, plans, and papers belonging to her territory and concerning its administration had to be handed over. The Belgian government apparently was in no haste to obtain them, however, for it was as late as 1839 before arrangements were made for the necessary separation of the documents, a difficult task since mostly chronological files were involved. Great

masses of papers were singled out for Belgium and shipped to the Archives generales du Royaume at Brussels where they immediately became dormant. Talking about this transaction in 1924, R. Fruin, co-author of the famous Dutch manual mentioned that these papers had been kept wholly unarranged for decades and that even then he was very much in doubt whether or not they had been described in an inventory. This indeed was by no means a minor task since quite naturally the indexes and other finding mediums had been retained at the Hague.

While these unpleasant experiences were taking place as a result of the all inclusive transfer of archival materials from the ceding to the annexing state, the character and the meaning of archival bodies were undergoing a far reaching change. The events of the French Revolution had caused the setting up of special repositories for the older materials turned loose by destruction of the institutions and agencies of the past, and the idea of a specialized archives service had been taken over by other countries of Europe. At the same time the holdings of these archival repositories had acquired a new meaning. The dignity of source materials of history, previously restricted to medieval charters and chronicles, was extended to an ever widening scope of documents. With nationalism emerging in a period of French hegemony, historiography received its impulses from the needs of nations desirous of asserting their individuality and their right to independent existence by studying their past. And this past lived on not only in monuments but also in the records.

That a nation which is robbed of its archives loses more than heaps of dusty papers was brought home to the peoples of Europe in a most drastic way. The Roman emperors returning from victorious campaigns led illustrious prisoners and displayed the treasures of the conquered enemies in their triumphal processions. The conquering armies of the French Revolution took over this Roman idea of conquest by forcing the subjugated countries to deliver some of their most cherished treasures of art. By removing them from a state where they had been polluted by the spirit of servitude and transferring them to the sanctuary of liberty and equality they underwent what was called a process of purification. Under Napoleon archives began to share the fate of works of art. From Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, and Austria masses of archival materials were abducted to Paris where they were to be preserved in a huge archives building near the Pont de Jena, all this being done without any provision in the peace treaties. This move had a practical and at the same time an ideological background. There were, in the first place, financial advantages that Napoleon hoped to derive from this unique concentration of records. He had been promised that by servicing them as much as 500,000 florins in fees could be collected annually. But, beyond that, the foundation of the new imperial archives had a

deeper significance: it embodied the idea of the French Empire, the successor of the empire of Charlemagne, and it was meant to deprive the subjugated countries of something more precious than paper—the silent witnesses of their individuality and their independence.

The Napoleonic rape of archives was only an interlude, but it contributed no doubt toward a greater realization of the delicate nature of a transfer of archives from state to state. On the other hand, the Prussian and Belgian experiences had evinced the technical difficulties of the procedure if carried out too assiduously. It is therefore not surprising that from about the middle of the nineteenth century there began to prevail a more carefully considered idea of the meaning and scope of such transactions. The peace treaty of Vienna concluded between Austria and Italy in 1866 makes this apparent. It gave to Italy the archives of the ceded territories, the documents concerning their administration, and the political and historical documents of the old Republic of Venice, which had been removed to Vienna. The retradition of documents relating to those parts of the cession that remained in Austrian hands was also stipulated. Both parties furthermore promised 'to allow authentic copies to be taken of historical and political documents which may interest the territories remaining respectively in the possession of the other contracting power and which, in the interest of scholarship, cannot be taken from the archives to which they belong.'

This provision undoubtedly marks a turning point in the treatment of the problem under consideration. It is the first echo of the famous *respect des fonds* in the sphere of international law, and it seems to have exercised a lasting influence, which was especially exemplified by the way in which in 1871, Article 3 of the Treaty of Frankfort between France and Germany was formulated. This article stipulated that the archives, documents, and registers relating to the civil, military, and judicial administration of Alsace-Lorraine had to be delivered up by France and that if some of them had been removed they had to be returned to their prior depository. The ceded territory consisted roughly of the three departments of Haut-Rhin, Bas-Rhin, and Moselle. But, since some districts of these departments remained with France, while from the department of the Meurthe, with its seat in Nancy, the arrondissements of Sarrebourg and Chateau-Salins fell to Germany, some further regulation was given in Article 18 of the additional Convention of Frankfort. It said: 'The High Contracting Powers promise reciprocally to deliver all the titles, plans, books of assessment, registers and papers of the respective communities which the new frontier has detached from their former administrative centres and which are preserved in the archives of the seats of department or arrondissement on which they formerly depended . . . . The High Contracting Powers will make

available to each other . . . all the documents and all the information relating to matters concerning both France and the ceded territory.'

The implication of these two articles is perfectly clear. Germany receives the three archival depots of Colmar, Strasbourg, and Metz as a normal consequence of annexation; therefore this is not specifically stipulated. It is expressly stated, however, that records concerning the administration of the cession must be delivered and, since it is provided that records that had been removed must be returned to their former place, it follows that only local materials and not records of central authorities are meant. With regard to records concerning localities that had been detached from their former administrative centres, the scope of the extradition of records is definitely settled; only records of the prefectorial and subprefectorial administrations are involved.

Nothing is known about the genesis of these two clauses. French authorities are inclined to ascribe their formulation to the French negotiators and believe that in proposing them to the Germans they had a special objective in mind. Months before the armistice German archivists had paid an unwelcome visit to the archives of Nancy and had compiled a list of all the historical fonds of Lorraine that were to be claimed by Germany; hence, Article 3 of the peace treaty was phrased in such a way as to preclude any attempt at breaking up the valuable archives of Nancy. Since Bismarck was inclined not to offend French sensibilities for minor purposes, it is quite probable that the archival clauses of 1871 are indeed the result of the protective exertions of the French negotiators.

The solution adopted in 1871 satisfied the legitimate needs of both parties. It gave to the acquirer the archives repositories of Alsace-Lorraine and the papers needed for administrative purposes; it left untouched the central records of the cessionary and the historical fonds outside the territory. When Louis Jacob, in his study of 1915, raised the question of what should be asked from Germany in the case of the recovery of the two provinces, he felt that France could not claim more than she herself had ceded in 1871. Jacob's monograph may have attracted the attention of French statesmen. When the Allied and Associated Powers concluded with Germany and her former allies what the Nazis like to call the 'Paris Suburban Treaties,' Article 3 of the Treaty of Frankfort was almost literally taken over into the different peace instruments. On the basis of Articles 38 and 52 of the Treaty of Versailles, the extradition of records from Germany to France and Belgium was carried out without any friction worth mentioning. Poland, on the other hand, wanted to interpret the archival clauses of the treaty in the widest sense and to obtain all materials relating to that part of her territory that was formerly German, including those of the State Archives in Berlin and of the central authorities.

In parrying these claims the German archival experts made effective use of the principle of provenance as a weapon of defence.

Indeed, such claims could not very well be based on the letter of the Treaty of Versailles, a fact that may have induced the Polish Government to insist on more explicit clauses in the Treaty of Riga, concluded with Russia on March 21, 1921. It called for the extradition by Russia of all archives abducted from Poland since 1772 and of all records of central as well as of local authorities relating to Polish territory with the exception of documents preserved in central state archives and constituting historical collections. The Polish claims to some of the central records at least could be justified, since many of the administrations whose records were involved had been central authorities of Poland with their seat in Warsaw, or, if located in St. Petersburg, had dealt with Polish affairs exclusively. As a result of stubborn Russian resistance, however, actual deliveries under the Riga treaty have not been very satisfactory for Poland.

By far the greatest archival problems were caused by the disintegration of the Hapsburg monarchy. They have resulted in a rich and highly technical literature in which the divergent viewpoints are brought out in sharp relief. The archival clauses of the Treaty of St. Germain are more comprehensive than those of the Versailles treaty. Article 93 of the former stipulates the extradition of the archives pertaining to the administration of the ceded territories and is simply a repetition of the respective articles of Versailles and Frankfort. Beyond that, Austria was to relinquish to the successor states all the fonds of an historical character that, since the seventeenth century, had been removed to Vienna. The Austrian Government and its committee of experts were willing to part with these fonds and to carry out Article 93 in the accepted sense, but they were equally determined to prevent the disintegration of the central fonds of the Vienna archives. Early in 1919 they had agreed to make the principle of provenance the basis of negotiations with the six successor states, and Ludwig Bittner, the present Director of the State Archives in Vienna, had given to it a version that was particularly advantageous for that purpose. According to Bittner, the principle of provenance prescribes that a body of archives must be preserved in the original form and at the place of its origin. Two noted archival theoreticians, Jenkinson and Fruin, have pointed out that this is giving to the principle of provenance a completely new turn, since the place where a body of archives is preserved is a fact of minor importance and need by no means be that where it originated. The Austrians, however, were lucky enough to create a precedent. The Italians, anxious to get hold of some fonds which in contradiction to the treaty of 1866 had been retained by Austria, had sent, together with their armistice commission, a committee of archival experts to Vienna. The eminent Italian archivist Eugenio Casanova was not a member of this

committee, else he would have warned his colleagues against signing the convention of May 26, 1919, in which the principle of provenance in the Austrian sense was formally adopted as the basis for all future transaction.

The interpretation that the other successor states thought to give to Article 93 of the Treaty of St. Germain was entirely different. They felt that the territories they had acquired had contributed for a long time to the upkeep of the Vienna archives and that these archives contained materials indispensable for the administration of these territories. If in the course of administrative reorganization functions were transferred from a discontinued agency to other agencies, it was considered obvious that the records should follow the functions. Was it not natural that the same procedure should obtain if different states took over the functions of a disintegrated state with respect to certain territory? But not only administrative problems seemed to be involved. Was it not true that the Vienna archives comprised the documents without which the history of the different states could never be completely understood—documents that were a monument of their dependency on the much hated monarchy? While Napoleon had intended to deprive the subdued nations of their past by abducting their archives, the heirs of Austria wanted to obtain their full share of the Vienna archives to extinguish the last vestiges of Austrian domination.

It is impossible to discuss in detail the complicated and lengthy negotiations that followed. In these Austria's bargaining position was extremely weak. Largely dependent on the good will of her neighbours, she had to sacrifice archives, without which people can live, to get bread and other food, without which they cannot live. While in the special conventions with Czechoslovakia and later with the other successor states, the principle of provenance was still theoretically acknowledged as the basis for extradition, Austria promised to deliver from her central repositories to the successor states all the records pertaining to their newly acquired territories for the period from 1888 to 1918. The technical difficulties that resulted were enormous, and special delegations had to be sent to Vienna to carry through the work of separation. Since in most cases the inventories were not detailed enough to indicate whether transactions dealt with the whole of the monarchy or with any particular section, it became necessary to consult the indexes and even the documents themselves. How much the successor states have gained by obtaining fragmentary materials torn from the fonds to which they belonged and almost unusable since not only the general materials, but also the finding mediums remained in Vienna, it is impossible to state. It is clear that the modern holdings of the Vienna archives have been torn apart in a most undesirable way, and even a neutral observer such as Dr. Fruin has been highly critical in his comments on the

procedure, which indeed is against the true spirit of the principle of provenance.

This survey would be incomplete without a brief indication of what have been the effects of territorial changes on the archives of this country. The treaties through which the United States acquired Louisiana and the Floridas claimed, along with vacant lands, public buildings, fortifications, and barracks, the 'archives and documents relating to the property and sovereignty of the ceded territory'. They thus used a clause that was already outmoded in Europe, and one that has considerably hampered American efforts to obtain the records needed for the judicial administration of the ceded territories. The Treaty of Guadelupe Hidalgo does not refer at all to the treatment of archival materials. In the treaty with Spain of December 10, 1898, once again only 'documents exclusively referring to the sovereignty relinquished or ceded' were demanded, documents, it was said, 'that may exist in the archives of the Peninsula'. This proviso, however, has never been carried into effect. Most comprehensive in its scope is the archival clause of the convention for the cession of the Danish West Indies. While the unratified convention of 1902 was confined explicitly to the 'government archives, papers, and documents relative to the Islands ceded and the dominion of the same which may be existing there,' the text of 1916 says: 'In this cession shall also be included any government archives, records, papers, or documents which relate to the cession or the rights of property of the Islands ceded, and which may now be existing in the Islands ceded or in Denmark.' Neglecting textual difficulties—the word cession is used in the same sentence with two different meanings, namely, the act of ceding and the territory ceded—we can conclude that thus the United States acquired a right to all the public records of the islands as well as to those relating to them that were preserved in the Royal Archives in Copenhagen and in the different provincial archives of the kingdom. Seldom, in the history of our problem, has there been a greater discrepancy between what could be claimed and what was actually obtained by a successor state. The United States did not get any records from the Danish motherland; instead, a large portion of the local materials was removed from the islands before the United States took possession. The indifference shown by the federal government may be partly explained by lack of the competent advice of archivists.

The preceding discussion should have indicated reasonable ways of treating archives at some future peace. Where only border districts are involved in a change of sovereignty, the acquiring state will have a perfectly good title to the archives found in the territory itself and to the administrative records pertaining to it that exist in the files of regional and local administrative centres which remain outside the cession. The soundness of such a provision is borne out by the experience had with Article 3 of the Treaty of Frankfort. But future

territorial changes may be more far-reaching. Whole states may again be dismembered. Whatever the outcome of the war, let us hope that existing national repositories will not be broken up, and that files of central agencies will be left untouched. That resuscitated nations like the Poles and the Czechs considered the records of a foreign domination as essential to the history of their past and as part of their national patrimony and wanted to obtain them, is readily understood. But, while a picture that is taken from the walls of a museum has never been an integrated part of the collection to which it belonged and will have same value whether it hangs in Vienna or in Prague, records that are torn from the body of which they are an organic part lose in value and meaning. That archival amputations can be avoided even where a political structure is entirely destroyed is proved in the history of our problem by a remarkable instance of the use of common sense. When, in 1715, High-Guelderland was divided among Austria, Prussia, and the Netherlands, its archives were maintained intact in Roermonde in the Austrian part. Each of the successor states received a copy of the inventory, and each of them could ask for copies of all the documents needed. To the vast masses of nineteenth and twentieth century records such a remedy would not be applicable. Microphotography, however, suggests itself as a possible solution for many of the difficulties that might be encountered. The rapid advance of technology is mainly responsible for the dangers that menace our archives in times of war. May technology atone, in part at least by protecting them against the dangers of peace.

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—A paper read at the fifth annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists at Hartford, Connecticut, in October, 1941. Reprinted from the American Archivist, *July, 1942, by kind permission. The article will be of special interest to India where archivists and administrators may soon be called upon to solve problems very similar to those dealt with by Dr. Posner.*

THE DURABILITY OF PAPER

GUNTHER REICHARDT

THE various reasons for the decline in quality of paper are increasing use of paper and low prices both of which lower its standards. The more basic reasons of deterioration are, however, different but include among others damage to the fibres in the process of machine work and use of minerals, especially the filler.

The change over to machine-made paper thus considerably deteriorated the quality of paper. It, therefore, became necessary that a united effort should be put up for upholding high standards, specially in the paper used in newspapers. Such efforts luckily were not lacking and in 1886 Martens succeeded in establishing the first standards for printing-paper. These standards greatly helped in extending the science of paper-making.

The question of paper-testing was also continuously studied by various persons and societies till it was taken up in 1928 by the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations with the view to establishing one standard for each class of material and of raising the quality of all types of paper.

As far as the results of paper-testing were concerned the demand of a library, without underrating the aesthetic consideration, was primarily for durability. It was therefore considered proper that some copies of newspapers should be printed on durable paper as newspapers were becoming a very important source for historical research. This was taken up by some papers in Germany and also by the *Times* in England.

Considering the factors that give durability to paper the first is the use to which it is put; second is its power of resistance to atmospheric and other chemical influences. This in its turn depends upon the durability of the processed fibre employed; for experience (also through analysis and experimentation) has revealed that the quality of the paper is determined by the various raw stuffs used. It was also found that a paper with filler 'can be more highly valued qualitatively, since its production is possible only through the use of better raw stuffs and better processing'.

The next problem was of the 'sizing material'. The sizing substances in paper are always 'a constituent of higher sensibility than cellulose'. Starch and animal sizing decompose when exposed to damp and are attacked by micro-organisms. Rosin is destroyed by oxidation under the influence of light. But experiments by some chemical societies, as for example by the Chemical Society in Stockholm, led some chemical engineers to state that 'paper which is doubly treated

with rosin sizing is as stable as that treated with animal sizing'. The deciding factor for durability is ultimately better processing.

In spite of these precautions in use of raw material and sizing, the paper can, under certain circumstances, be subject to decomposition; for example the books in a library receiving the best care last relatively a short time because of 'the hard usage given to them'. In 1904, the Institute for the Testing of Materials, Berlin-Dahlem, made experiments 'in order to formulate a certain and conclusive opinion as to the qualities which determine the stability and, therefore, the life of paper. The experiments, although inconclusive as a result of insufficient number of specimens provided, revealed that 'the stability has decreased approximately 5 per cent over a period of from twelve to fifteen years, and the tensile strength has decreased 10–12 per cent in that time'. The Swedish Institute for Testing of Materials also arrived at similar conclusions.

Many present-day research workers have therefore looked for a basis for durability in the chemical purity of the fibres used and in the degree of acidity. The purity of fibre materials is measured by the content of alpha-cellulose, which should be the highest possible, and by the copper number, which should be the lowest possible. As to the acidity, it is stated that 'a high degree of acid leads to the formation of hydrocellulose and consequently to the destruction of the paper'. But Hoffmann believed that a deterioration of the paper did not occur if the acid concentration was less than 25.

Paper-making people and research workers also think it possible to find some other raw stuffs besides rag. This problem was fully discussed by the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation in Paris in 1928. There was some unanimity of opinion that 'documents and valuable publications require rag paper, since the purification of low-grade fibres can be attained only with considerable strain on the fibres in the boiling and purifying processes'. It was also stated that paper made from new rag holds promise of a longer life than that made of used rag.

But the Bureau of Standards in America held the view that the difference between rag and pulp paper was not of authoritative significance in determining the life of the paper and that the resistance was determined rather by the chemical purity of the materials. This view was also supported by Paul Klemm of Germany.

Under these circumstances it is difficult to reach a certain and conclusive judgment as to the durability of the present-day paper. Only the passage of time, careful observation, and a systematic series of experiments can accomplish this. To summarize one can say that the most important rules for durability are: (1) good raw materials and (2) fine technical processing of materials.

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NOTE.—One factor which Mr. Reichardt does not notice is the effect on paper of external agencies, viz. acid gases, wide variations in temperature and humidity, dust and atmospheric impurities. These play a major part in the deterioration of paper and one of the most vital conditions of ensuring the durability of paper is its proper preservation. This is especially so in India where extremes of climate prevail and storage conditions are generally poor. Recently some experiments have been undertaken in the National Archives of India consisting of analysis of fibrous and non-fibrous constituents of old paper and determination of their durability under existing conditions. The experiments are well under way though it is too early yet to give any definite results.—*Editors.*

NOTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Editors will be glad to publish in this section brief notes and communications on any topic connected with archives keeping and preservation and reproduction of manuscripts. They, however, do not hold themselves responsible for opinions expressed by their correspondents. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.

PALM-LEAF MANUSCRIPTS AND THEIR PRESERVATION

The Pattan MSS. *bhandars* (repositories) contain the most ancient MSS. in Gujarat. The earliest dated MS. is that of Niśītha Chūrṇi which bears the date of Vikrama Samvat 1157 corresponding to A.D. 1101, that is to say, the beginning of the 12th century. There are a few MSS. which by appearance and from palaeographical evidence appear to be older, but much reliance cannot be placed on such findings.

The condition of palm-leaf MSS. is fairly good in Pattan although in one or two *bhandars* the leaves have formed into solid blocks due to moisture, insects and neglect. The yellow oxide of arsenic is not known nor used as a preservative on this side. MSS. here are generally placed between two wooden boards and then wrapped in silk or cloth and kept in wooden boxes of varying size according to the size of the MS. Sometimes they are kept without any wrapper in wooden boxes. In some *bhandars* small bundles of MSS. are fastened by a cloth and kept in almirahs or tin boxes. The preservative used in the *bhandars* is what is known as *ghodavacha* (*Acorus calamus*). It is powdered very fine and small pillows or packets are filled in with the powder and sewn. Two or three such cloth packets are kept in each box. In Pattan, the largest MS. measures $36'' \times 2\frac{1}{2}''$ in size, while the smallest is $4\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1\frac{1}{2}''$ in size.

It is the general practice to wrap the palm-leaf MSS. and also paper ones in cloth. This cloth may be of any colour: white, red or yellow and is used obviously to keep off dust and worms. It is difficult to say why red or yellow colour is used, but it is generally believed that the red is a repelling colour for the worms, while green attracts them. The white colour does not seem to possess any special quality. But the yellow colour, if produced by turmeric, must possess germicidal power. Silk is remarkably free from bookworms, and its extensive use is desirable.

There are two kinds of palm-leaves which may be used in writing manuscripts; one is called *śrītāla* while the other goes by the ordinary name of *tāla*. The ordinary *tāla* is grown almost all over India from

which toddy is extracted but the *śrītāla* is grown only in South India especially in Malabar. When the leaves of a grown up tree are sprouting from their sheath and are just beginning to spread out, they are cut. After this both the varieties are required to be seasoned before they are fit for cutting to manuscript size or for writing. The *śrītāla* is of enormous size and one bunch may not have more than twenty leaves.

The process of seasoning is something like this. When the *śrītāla* leaves come out of their sheaths, begin to spread out and are delightfully soft, they are cut and separated from the tree. Then they are dried in the sun for at least seven days, and then buried in the mud for three months. At the expiry of this period they are taken out and cleaned. By this process the white leaves acquire brownish colour. Then in bundles the leaves are kept in the kitchen exposed to smoke. From the kitchen leaves are taken out whenever required, dressed and cut to required sizes for use in writing. Such leaves are known as the seasoned palm-leaves.

The *śrītāla* leaf is thin, crisp and beautiful while the ordinary *tāla* is coarse, thick and difficult to handle. The *śrītāla* can be handled like paper and can absorb ink. Ink cannot be used on the ordinary *tāla* leaf on which a steel stylus has to be used for writing.

Repairing is almost impossible when a palm-leaf is damaged. The only thing that is to be done is to brighten the old writing by spreading some kind of juice of leaves. When broken, the leaves can be protected by pasting tissue paper on both sides or keeping the pieces between two glasses.

The oldest palm-leaf manuscript using Gupta script (cir. 6th century A.D.) is preserved in the monastery at Horiuzi in Japan. There may be earlier ones from the deserts of Taklamakan, but we do not possess any literature here to ascertain this correctly. I have seen manuscripts in Nepal written in the later Gupta script (7th century A.D.).

B. Bhattacharyya,
Director,
Oriental Institute, Baroda.

1st March, 1946.

PALM-LEAF MANUSCRIPTS IN JAISALMIR

There are several *jñānabhāṇḍāras* (libraries) relating to Jainism in Jaisalmir. The oldest palm-leaf collection is in the fort near Shambhunath Jain temple. Some of the manuscripts are in a scattered and damaged condition. Some of the books, such as Kuvalayamālā, Mahāpurusha-charita, Vasudeva-hiṇḍi, Praśnavyākaraṇa, Pañchamī-kahā are matchless and impossible to be obtained elsewhere. Out of the above (1) Pañchamī-kahā was written in 1109 V.S. (= 1053 A.D.)

(2) Kuvalayamālā in V.S. 1139 (= 1082 A.D.) and (3) Vasudevahiṇḍi (the date of the composition of which is not known) may be considered as very old. Thus palm-leaf manuscripts dating as far back as 1400 or 1500 also are found here. The oldest paper manuscript so far found is dated 1246 V.S. (= 1189 A.D.). The writing on most of these palm-leaf manuscripts is beautiful, easily legible and worth looking at. Some of them have worn out due to the negligence of the record-keepers. Some have almost been reduced to fragments, while a few others are undecipherable and cannot even be copied by an ordinary copyist.

Small bags of a sort of grass, *panadī* by name (which is grown in Jaisalmir and used in making perfumes) are placed among these records to save them from white ants. A kind of herb *ghora bachch* (*Acorus calamus*) is also powdered and is similarly placed as a deterrent against insects.

The palm leaves are placed between small wooden planks which are kept together by strings passing through the holes in the planks. Formerly these planks were wrapped in red or yellow cloth, but with change of time this cloth has been replaced by white khadi.

Raw palm leaves are no longer subjected to the curing process nor used as writing material. We do not know how they were exactly used.

Instead of having the palm-leaf manuscripts tied together between planks it is better to keep them in boxes of proportionate size having three lids, as leaves are likely to crack and wear out due to friction with the strings.

The earliest palm-leaf manuscript known to have been traced so far dates as far back as the 10th century of the Vikrama era (*c.* 843–942 A.D.). The palm leaves are from 9 inches to 30½ inches long.

A catalogue of the *Jñānabhāṇḍāra*, Jaisalmer, has been published in the Gaekwar Oriental Series, Baroda, and can be had from there. There are some mistakes, of course, which have been corrected in our catalogue. Our library (Śrī Hari Sagar Suri Jain *Jñānabhāṇḍāra*) is in Lohawat, Marwar. (Lohawat is between Jodhpur and Pakran on the Jodhpur Railway line.) The road from Pakran to Jaisalmer is almost 60 miles. The curator at Jaisalmer does not send books out of station, but they can be copied there. The volumes in the above *Jñānabhāṇḍāra* are being published by the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Bombay.

JINA HARISAGARA SURI,
c/o Nath Mal Marath Jain,
Dhara Shala
Mohalla Daftari,
Jodhpur (Marwar).

14th February, 1946.

NEWS NOTES

INDIA

Indian Historical Records Commission

With the passing of the Indian Independence Act the commission enters an altogether new phase in its career. Independence has given it a new status and a new dignity. Integrally related, as it is now, to a government composed of the nation's true representatives it will henceforth have a more effective voice in determining the archive policy of the nation, and will be able to concentrate with greater energy on the task of rehabilitating the country's archives. A vast multitude of problems connected with the archival field are awaiting the careful attention of expert archivists. It is hoped that under the new regime the Commission will be provided with ample opportunity not only to study them thoroughly but contribute materially to their solution.

But independence has not been an unmixed blessing for the Commission. The partition of India, which is one of its important by-products, deprives the Commission of the services of all those members who belonged to or represented the seceding states and provinces, and removes from the immediate range of its activities the many archive repositories and manuscript collections located in these areas. It is, however, hoped that the archivists and the institutions affected by the change will continue to maintain contact with the Commission as before, and that constitutional considerations will not cloud the reality that the archival problem of this great subcontinent is one which needs for its solution the co-ordinated attention of the governments of both the Dominions.

Partition has also brought to the forefront the question of how to deal with the archives likely to be affected by the change. We trust, however, that in solving this problem the two Dominions will be guided by international customs and usages and that nothing will be done to disturb the integrity of any collection.

Reports are now available on the action taken by various authorities in India on several past resolutions of the Commission. It will be recalled that at the Peshawar Session the Commission lent its whole-hearted support to a number of proposals mooted by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal. It is now learnt that the proposal relating to the establishment of a Traveller's department has been forwarded to the Railway Board (now the Ministry of Railways). The resolution relating to the constitution of a Central Record Office at Calcutta was forwarded to the late Government of Bengal and was included by them in their post-war reconstruction scheme. How far the decision has

been affected by the recent partition of Bengal is not, however, known. As regards the other recommendations of the Society that relating to the creation of a National Museum has received the sympathetic consideration of the Government of India. Government appointed a Committee under the presidency of Sir Maurice Gwyer to examine the question in detail. The report prepared by that Committee has been accepted in principle by Government and the details of the scheme are under their consideration.

The Central Government is also reviewing the entire question of amending the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act. The question has been referred to the Provincial Governments whose views are awaited. Meanwhile an Act has been passed called the Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947, making better provision for controlling the export of objects of antiquarian or historical interest from India. The Commission's resolution relating to the establishment of a National Cultural Trust is also receiving the consideration of the Central Government.

In response to the third Resolution of the Twenty-Second Session of the Commission its ex-officio Secretary was authorized by the Central Government to inspect periodically the 'Crown' and other Central records in provincial custody. So far four record centres have been inspected under the scheme, viz. the Secretariat record room of the Chief Commissioner, Ajmer; the Secretariat record room, Bihar; the Archives of the Board of Revenue of the United Provinces at Allahabad and the U.P. Secretariat Archives at Lucknow. From the Secretary's report on Ajmer records it appears that widely different conditions prevail in the English and Vernacular record rooms. While the former is furnished with steel racks and the bundles are kept horizontally in a neat row, the latter has plastered stone shelves and the records are kept in loose *bastas* heaped one on another. No dusting or cleaning arrangements exist. The papers in most cases have been kept in the order in which they were received from the agencies of their origin, and are mostly unbound or loose. The Secretary suggests that all files should be properly stitched and put in a protective cover which is to show the date, reference number and a brief descriptive title. His other recommendations are that the existing system of forming bundles of unwieldy size and placing them one upon another should be discarded and that the bundles should be of one uniform size with depth not exceeding 12". They should further be placed between two hard boards (preferably synthetic) and kept horizontally on the shelves. The Secretary also advises the complete dismantling of the existing stone-racks. But till such time as a better arrangement is possible he recommends that the stone shelves should be provided with wooden lining. As there is no arrangement for repair at Ajmer it has been further recommended that

the Chief Commissioner should get one of his men trained in the preservation technique at the National Archives of India.

The report on Bihar Secretariat archives reveals that the provincial government has in its custody about 43 bundles of Political Department records, all being printed copies received from Bengal. There is a catalogue and the oldest documents date back to 1861. The records are in an advanced state of brittleness and the Secretary's recommendation is that arrangement should be made for reprinting them. There is no dusting or cleaning arrangement. The stack room is provided with vertical ventilation.

At both the records rooms of the United Provinces Government the Secretary was told that they had no central or 'crown' records in their custody. His advice, however, was sought by the Provincial Government on its own records which were therefore inspected by him on verbal request. It is learnt that the constitution of a fully equipped records repository is under the consideration of the Provincial Government.

The Commission's recommendation that its Secretary should be authorized in a general way to study the conditions of archives in the Provinces and the States and to take such steps as would improve their condition has aroused a great deal of sympathetic response all over India, and the majority of the Provincial Governments and a large number of the States have signified their consent to work the scheme.

The twenty-fourth session of the Commission is scheduled to be held in Jaipur, sometime during February the next year. The precise date and the details of the programme are yet to be fixed.

The Research and Publication Committee

The tenth meeting of the Research and Publication Committee of the Indian Historical Records Commission, held at the National Archives Building, New Delhi, on 8 March, 1947 was, memorable for the number of important items included in its agenda. In the absence of Sir John Sargent, ex-officio Chairman of the Committee, Dewan Bahadur C. S. Srinivasachari was voted to the Chair. By far the most important subject discussed related to the general preservation of records lying scattered in different repositories, public and private, all over India. The Committee viewed with grave concern the extremely unsatisfactory state in which the bulk of these materials were lying and the risks of destruction and dispersal to which they were exposed. These risks in the Committee's view, were even much greater in the case of records than of the documents or materials collected or acquired without any reference to their archival value. The reasons were considered to be as follows: (1) their value as evidences

for history was not recognized to the same extent as that of non-archival materials like chronicles, memoirs and similar compilations; (2) being accumulated primarily for business purposes they were liable, when these purposes had been fulfilled, to be considered of no value and at best were saleable waste; (3) being not a mere collection of isolated documents, but a body of related papers they were liable to be ruined as effectively by dispersal as by destruction. The Committee was of the view that many of these risks could be eliminated by (1) the enactment of a comprehensive public records legislation for the preservation of all records of national value; (2) by the establishment of properly organized and staffed repositories all over India to house those records which still required a suitable shelter, and education of their present custodians and owners in the principles of archives-keeping; (3) making provision for technical services (such as repair, photographing, indexing, cataloguing, etc.) in such repositories as might be unable to organize these services for themselves; and (5) establishment of a system of control on the administration of these records by a suitable central organization.

As a preliminary step to the above the Committee recommended that its Secretary should be entrusted with the compilation of a register containing complete information regarding all records in India whether in public, semi-public, private or institutional custody. The information collected should be entered in the following form, a separate form being used for each collection, series, group or fonds of records or historical manuscripts examined:

1. Location of the repository or the find spot.
2. Owner, with name, occupation (in the case of bodies, functions) and address.
3. Name of custodian, if any.
4. Description of the Collections (to be used for each collection in the repository).
   (*a*) Class of documents (archival or non-archival).
   (*b*) Agency of origin with indication as to the functions of the agency.
   (*c*) Chronological limits.
   (*d*) Whether any part of the collection has ever migrated elsewhere. If so, where?
   (*e*) Nature of documents (correspondence, diaries, memoirs, minutes, memoranda, etc.).
   (*f*) Subjects in broad outline (diplomatic, private, financial, business, trade, etc.).
   (*g*) Relations to any known collection.
   (*h*) Circumstances under which acquired (inheritance, purchase, etc.).
   (*i*) Number—(figures in bundles, volumes, files, rolls, packings, etc.).

(*j*) Material (palm leaf, paper, etc., colour and nature of ink).
(*k*) Language.
(*l*) State of preservation.
(*m*) Indexes and Catalogues, if any.
(*n*) If any portion published.

The Regional Survey Committees are to be instructed to concentrate on the compilation of the above information to the exclusion of all other items of work they may have taken up and to forward the forms, when completed, to the Secretary for consolidation with similar forms received from elsewhere. Copies should be retained by them for reference purposes with up-to-date indexes. The programme also envisages enlisting the active co-operation of the Provincial Governments, the States, the Local Authorities, the High Courts and the other Courts, the Corporations, the Municipalities, the District and the Local Boards, the trusts, the councils and similar other organizations set up by the Central, the Provincial or State Governments or under their auspices, the learned societies, the Universities and other educational institutions, the religious establishments, the libraries, the museums and all public and semi-public institutions not covered by the above. The Governments having organized records offices of their own are to furnish information in respect of their collections direct to the Secretary of the Committee, copies being sent in every case to the Regional Survey Committees concerned.

In another resolution the Committee requested the Government of India to direct all the existing departments under them to submit to the Director of Archives within one year a report on the history of their growth and present organization, to keep him informed of all subsequent changes as and when introduced—and to submit to him a list of all defunct departments whose functions they might have inherited. It was decided that the following points should be dealt with while furnishing the information:

1. The name of the Department.

2. (*a*) The Administrative Department to which it is attached or subordinate, with the date on which it came under its control. The names of the Departments under whose control it may have been at one time or other with the dates and locations of these Departments.

3. The date of the formation of the Department with an account of the circumstances under which it was constituted.

4. Its existing administrative sub-divisions (explaining the principles of sub-divisions, if any). The dates on which (1) each subdivision came into existence and (2) came under the control of the Department.

5. (*a*) Has the Department under it any sub-division or branch which once formed part of any other Department? If so, give the names of the branches, with the names of the controlling Departments

and dates on which they were transferred; (*b*) what part of the records relating to (and/or belonging to) the transformed branches has been taken over by the inheriting agency with inclusive dates; (*c*) whereabouts of the remaining part of the records.

6. Has any sub-division or branch which once formed part of the Department since (1) ceased to exist or (2) been incorporated with any other Department? Give dates in each case and indicate how the records relating to sub-divisions have been disposed of. In case of transfer give the inclusive dates, and bulk (in volumes, bundles, packages, etc.) of the records involved, the name of the agency taking the transfer and the date of transfer.

7. The current procedure in disposal of business. The date when it was introduced. Any other procedure which may have been followed in the Department.

8. What is the current filing technique and the procedure followed in grouping and numbering files? Is grouping done according to (1) subjects, (2) functions or (3) branches dealing with the files or (4) any other methods? Give a list of headings of all the different series, classes or groups of current files. When was the present system introduced?

9. Was any other filing method ever in use in the Department?

10. Does the Department maintain any register of receipts, issues, recorded or unrecorded files? Describe the principle of registration.

11. What is the procedure followed in weeding? When was the present procedure introduced?

Deserving of notice are also the resolutions the Committee passed on the utilization of the records in the Foreign possessions in India and on the need for pooling up information on the researches conducted by advanced students among original records in the various repositories in India. On the first question the Committee recommended that the Portuguese and the French Governments in India should be requested to give facilities to accredited students from British India and Indian States to do research among their records and to co-operate with the Indian Historical Records Commission enabling the latter to obtain copies of their records with a view to their publication.

As to the second question the Committee suggested that the Universities and learned institutions should be requested to furnish the Director of Archives, Government of India, information on the research work taken up by their students under the following heads: (1) name of the institution; (2) name of the research scholar; (3) place of research; (4) subject; (5) progress made; (6) general nature of sources consulted; (7) publication, if any. The information thus collected should be published in the *Indian Archives*. The Committee felt that this measure would remove the risk of two or more persons

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willingly spending their time and labour on the same subject and also enable students to establish contacts with those working on kindred subjects.

Regional Survey Committees

A brief account was given in the April issue of the activities of some of the Regional Survey Committees set up under the auspices of the Indian Historical Records Commission. Fresh reports have since been received from these as well as a few more committees and significant information contained in them is summarized below:

Central Province and Berar.—The Regional Survey Committee of the Province held a general meeting in Nagpur in October 1946 with Dr. P. Basu, Assistant Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission in the Chair. The proceedings were opened by the Hon'ble Mr. S. V. Gokhale, Education Minister, Central Province and Berar. In his presidential address Dr. Basu explained the objectives of the Regional Survey programme and indicated the general lines on which the Committee should begin its work. To facilitate the work of survey the Committee constituted three sub-committees to take charge respectively of the Marathi speaking area, the Hindi speaking area and Berar. The names of the Committee members were published in the Provincial Gazette.

During 1946 Mr. D. G. Landge, a member of the Committee inspected the archives of the Sardars, the Shastris and other influential families in Nagpore and prepared notes on his findings. Mr. L. P. Pandeya undertook tours in the Chhattisgarh division and contacted several old families. Among the materials found by him mention may be made of a few Hindi manuscripts dealing with the history of Chhattisgarh. Mr. Y. K. Deshpande, convener of the Committee discovered a number of historical documents in the possession of the present lineal representatives of the family priest of the Nagpur Rajas. They include documents issued by Raghuji III in connection with the management of the Bhonsla temple at Benares, an original passport issued by the Nagpur prince to Bālambhaṭṭa Payaguṇḍe, the famous commentator on the *Mitāksharā*, and a copperplate grant issued by a Raja Dip Narayan Siṃha to a Brahmin about 300 years back in Kayethe characters. Dr. Deshpande also obtained two important historical paintings from the Jade family of Benares, one depicting the scene of the last battle of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi with the British forces at Gwalior and the other a portrait of Govindpant Bundele, who fought in the campaign against Abdali. In January 1947 Dr. Deshpande contacted the Saoji family at Chikhli, examined its archives and compiled a note on the more important items in the collection. Among other finds of the Committee mention may be made of an old manuscript of the *bakhr* of the celebrated Jadhav family.

Bihar.—The Bihar Committee reports that it has been able to discover a large number of Persian manuscripts and some specimens of calligraphy among the collections of Muhammad Byed Mahmuddu Haq, Phulwari; Babu Ganesh Prasad Saxena, Diwan Mahalla, Patna city; Hakim Syed Mujahir Ahmad, Patna; Wakf Library at Kujhwa, Saran District; Nawabzada Ali Ibrahim Khan, Husainabad, Gaya District; Nawabzada Syed Muhammad Mehdi of Guzri family, Patna city; and Mr. Jawahir Lal Suchanti, Bihar Shariff, Bihar. A number of historical documents and manuscripts of literary works, coins and paintings have also been traced in the possession of Chandradhari Singh of Madhubani (Darbhanga). Among other finds mention may be made of a few Bengali manuscripts discovered in the Santal Parganas. These include an autobiography of a Maratha gentleman and some ballads on the Santal insurrection of 1855-57.

Baroda.—In 1944 the Baroda Government created a committee for the Regional Survey of records in the State for the purpose of rescuing valuable manuscripts in private custody with R. S. Mane Patel as Chairman and Messrs. R. K. Ranadive, R. H. Kamdar, M. F. Lokhandwala and Manilal Dvivedi and Dr. M. R. Majumdar as members. Prof. C. V. Joshi was the Convener of the committee. In November 1945 a circular was published in the State Gazette appealing to the public to extend its co-operation to the committee by apprising them of any historically important objects they might come across. In December a good number of Persian, Marathi and Gujarati documents were traced by Professor Kamdar and Dr. Majumdar in the possession of Indulal Majumdar. The documents ranged from the reign of Emperor Farrukhsiyar (1714-1719) to the time of Khanderao Gaekwad (1870). Interesting items in the collection include a deed of agreement regarding the boundary dispute of village Achidhara, dated 1760 (V.S. 1827), an order dated 1738 (V.S. 1795) from Maharaja Damajirao Gaekwad to Patel Madho of Sinor, and a letter giving account of the disturbances in Gwalior written by Munshi Balvantrao to Mahtaji Bhagubhai of Baroda. The collection was also examined by Professor Joshi who made a selection of Modi documents.

Mr. Manilal Dvivedi unearthed four interesting documents in the Navasari District, one of them recording the sale of a slave by a local Desai family. Two of his colleagues Messrs. Kamdar and Majumdar visited Dwarka and Beyt and made a list of unofficial records locally available. Some interesting papers were found in the collection of the *pujari* (priest) of Prabhaspatan in Kathiawar. They include a letter from Gopalrao Mairal to Gajanan Aba of Prabhaspatan in Kodinar requesting the latter not to impose any tax on the cultivators of Samsthan Jalakeswar Mahadev of Prabhas, and an order from Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwar regarding the maintenance of the temple of Aghoreshwar Mahadev.

At Kodinar Messrs. Kamdar and Majumdar came across a number of valuable documents among the private archives of Sheth Vithaldas Mathurdas, a descendant of Devkaran Vithal, who had assisted the Baroda Government in suppressing the Vagher disturbances of 1849. The documents include several orders of Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwar granting Devkaran certain rewards for the services rendered by him. The party also inspected the private archives of Mr. Mondhe, the priest at Somnath Patan.

The future programme of the Baroda Committee includes further exploration of private archives in Navasari and Mehsana districts, and the acquisition of the historical records owned by the family of Raoji Appaji and Balaji Appaji. These records are believed to contain valuable materials relating to Maratha history.

United Provinces.—The United Province Regional Survey Committee has for its president Dr. Tarachand who is now the Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University. Among prominent members mention may be made of Dr. Bisheswar Prasad, Professor Muhammad Habib, Professor J. C. Taluqdar, Dr. A. Halim and Dr. Nandalal Chatterji. In order to facilitate its work the committee has set up branches in Agra, Benares, Allahabad and Aligarh. From the report of the Allahabad Committee it is learnt that examination has been made of a part of the private collections of manuscripts in the possession of Mr. Mohammad Ali and that a valuable manuscript has been purchased and several others examined. A partial survey has also been made of the records in the Commissioner's office, Allahabad. The Committee's finding is that although the records are on the whole well-kept the indexes are unsatisfactory. The records, in the Committee's opinion, throw a flood of light on the conditions of trade, commerce and agriculture in the various districts composing the Allahabad Division, and deserve to be housed in a well-equipped central record office.

To the Aligarh Branch belongs the credit of unearthing two valuable collection of historical manuscripts. The first of these was found in the possession of Mr. Quaiyyum Ali Khan, a descendant of Hazrat Shah Jamal, the saint. It relates mostly to the local history of Aligarh and has been deposited in the Lytton Library, Muslim University, Aligarh. The second collection is owned by Babu Durga Prasad Mathur who comes of a very old Kayastha family of the locality noted for its connexion with the Mughal administration since the time of Aurangzeb. A catalogue of the collection has been prepared by Dr. A. B. Halim of the Muslim University and will be placed before the next session of the Indian Historical Records Commission to be held in Jaipur. Among the most interesting items are: a *farman* of Aurangzeb (1661) granting the village of Lohari in Saharanpur as a free gift; a *farman* of Emperor Shah Alam recording

the grant of some lands in Amroha to Naunit Rai, father of Sundarlal, the historian and an officer of the Imperial establishment in Delhi; several *parwanas* of Mahadaji Sindhia relating to land-grants; a *parwana* of General De Boigne (Shamsher Jang) dated 1790; a *parwana* of Begam Samru containing her seal; and a collection of private letters reminiscent of the early days of the introduction of postage stamps in India. Two very unique items in the collection are: (1) a memoir of Sundarlal containing a comprehensive history of De Boigne and Perron and other European adventurers in Sindia's employ; an account of Aligarh, Muttra and Brindaban; a history of Hindu and Muslim rulers of North India; and an account of the important forts like those of Shahjahanabad, Agra, Lahore, etc.; and (2) a family journal which was begun by Sundarlal in 1792 and has been continued by his descendants. The last is in the form of a diary, each page recording the events of a particular day. Dr. Halim, who examined both these items, is of the opinion that they contain much that is likely to be of value to the research worker.

Madras.—The Madras Committee has unearthed a number of old *cadjans* written in *Devanagari* and *grantha* characters in the custody of a Brahmin in Sankarnainarkoil, Tinnevelly District. Other finds of the Committee include a genealogical table of the family of Venkoji Panditar, who was the hereditary keeper of the mint at Tanjore under its Maratha rulers, the records relating to the family written in the Marathi Modi script, and a register of *Srotriyam* lands granted to the family. All these records have been acquired by the Committee on loan from their present owner. The Committee has also succeeded in tracing a number of valuable papers relating to the sea-borne trade on the Carnatic coast during the eighteenth and early decades of the nineteenth century in the possession of Mr. Muhammad Ali Marica of Porto Novo. They reveal some important aspects of India's trade with China and Japan during that period. Attempts are also being made through the Assistant Commissioner, Hindu Religious Endowments Board for recopying and preserving *Inam* statements recorded by the *Inam* Commissioner.

The National Archives of India

As pointed out in the Editorial Note, one of the immediate effects of the Independence Act on the Central Government's archive repository has been the change of its nomenclature from the 'Imperial Record Department' to the National Archives of India. The changed title has created a good deal of public interest in the activities of the Department and it is hoped, it will go a long way to dispel some of the prevailing popular misconceptions about its scope and functions.

The staff of the National Archives celebrated the Independence Day at the Archives building on August 15. In the unavoidable absence of the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education the national flag was hoisted by Dr. S. N. Sen, Director of Archives, Government of India. Dr. Sen also contributed to the *Statesman* a brief article entitled *The National Archives of India* dwelling chiefly on the achievements of the past heads of the Department.

Consequent on the partition of the official personnel of the former Government of India between the two successor Dominions the Department has lost 11 members of its technical staff and 16 of its manipulative workers. Worst sufferers have been the Preservation, the Records, and the Calendaring Branches. The last has been practically inoperative since the partition. It is, however, hoped that all the posts will soon be restored by the new Government of India.

Recent acquisitions of the Department include the records of the Judicial Branch (1934–1941), the Jail Branch (1934–1940), the Public Branch (1934–1940), the Establishment Branch (1934–1940) and the Political Branch (1934–1940) of the Home Department (now Ministry of Home Affairs); of the Crops Branch, Ministry of Agriculture 1944, and of the Director-General of Indian Medical Service 1942-1943. Among rare and notable books acquired during the period for the National Archives Library mention may be made of *Histoire des Indes Orientales, Anciennes et Modernes* par M. L'Abbe Guyon, Paris, 1744; *Histoire Du Christianisme des Indes* par M. V. La Croze, 1724; *A Code of Gentoo Laws* by N. B. Halhed, London, 1776; and *a Narrative of the Transactions in Bengal* . . . . . Translated from the Original Persian by Francis Gladwin, Calcutta, 1788.

The Annual Report for 1945-1946 has been received back from the press. The printing of the *Sanskrit Documents* has begun. Other publications in the press include the two volumes of Calendars of Persian Correspondence and a Memorandum on the Maintenance of Reports in the Alienation Office, Poona.

The training classes in archives-keeping for the current session commenced in July. Among the seven trainees who have joined the classes four have taken up the full two year Diploma Course. Of the remaining three one has selected the six-month course, another the one-year course in Library Science and Preservation and the third the one-year course in Archive Administration and Preservation. The trainees include two nominees from the Travancore Government and one from the Jodhpur Darbar.

On 29 January the Director of Archives delivered a lecture on the job of an Archivist at the Punjab University, Lahore, under the auspices of the University Historical Society. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides. Another illustrated lecture was delivered

by him on 29 August at the Indian Administrative Service School, Delhi. The subject of the lecture was 'the Government Archives and their Preservation'. The Principal of the school was also furnished with a select bibliography on archive science and related topics. It is gratifying to note that the Principal considers the care and preservation of records as an important item in the training of India's future administrators.

Another item of news which will interest Indian archivists is that Dr. P. Basu, Assistant Director of Archives, has been awarded by the Government of India an overseas scholarship for advanced studies in Archival Economy. Dr. Basu has enrolled himself as an intern at the National Archives, Washington. He has further been admitted to the Graduate Division of the School of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, American University, Washington, where he is expected to work under Dr. Ernst Posner, the famous German Archivist. Dr. Basu's programme in America will also include visits to the leading archival repositories and institutions, like William L. Clements Library, Colorado State Museum and Archives, Henry E. Huntington Library, New York Public Library, etc.

F/O S. Chakravorti, M.Sc., A.R.I.C., who was deputed to the National Archives, Washington, last year, has rejoined the Department on the completion of his training in Archives Preservation and Microfilming. On his way back to India he spent a few weeks in England. During this period he paid visits to the Public Record Office, London, the British Museum, the Archives Nationales, Paris, the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, the National Library of Wales and several other leading archival and manuscript repositories in France and the United Kingdom. In a subsequent issue of the *Indian Archives* we expect to publish a note on his experience of archival work in Europe and America.

Patiala

A report received from the Patiala Darbar reveals that the Office of Old Records of that State was created in the time of Maharaja Karam Singh (1813–45). The office is at present located in a part of the Qila Mubarik and has at its disposal 19 rooms with a floor area of 5,000 square feet. The racks are made of iron uprights and wooden shelves. The records are dusted in a general way every day. Thrice a year bundles and volumes are removed from their respective places and exposed to air before being restored on the shelves. Arrangements exist for guarding against theft and fire. Every block is equipped with chemical fire extinguishers and buckets filled with water and sand. The office is under the supervision of a Record Keeper and a Record Preservation Officer, each being assisted by an adequate staff. The second post is a recent creation. The present

holder of the post has received training in the modern methods of preservation, storage and repair at the National Archives, New Delhi.

The office has in its custody the State archives from 1761 A.D. onwards. Recently some historical manuscripts have been acquired by the office under the Regional Survey plan, some of them belonging to the period 1748–58. There are only a few faded documents in the office. There are some which on account of natural ageing demand artificial aid of a protective coating in order to be saved from further deterioration. The Record Preservation Officer is actively engaged in mending and reconditioning the old and brittle records with tissue paper and chiffon. As the majority of the documents are written on one side they admit of being reinforced with hand-made paper. Folded documents are flattened and mended when necessary. Thereafter they are put in a docket cover indicating their dates and subjects. The records are claimed to have been arranged 'both chronologically and subjectwise for convenience of reference'. Adequate facilities are provided to *bona fide* research students. The office maintains a number of registers and detailed catalogues to assist research and reference.

Alwar

The Government of Alwar has reacted very enthusiastically to the recommendations made by the Secretary of the Indian Historical Records Commission on the reorganization of its archives. The Government has undertaken to put into force the suggestions made for protecting records from the sun and draught and has already taken up the question of weeding. Other recommendations of the Secretary which the Government expects to take up shortly relate to the arrangement for the regular dusting of records, the provision of fire-fighting equipments, introduction of better storage and shelving methods and establishment of a repair unit. In 1945 the Government sent two of its officers for training in the two-year course in Archives-keeping at the National Archives of India. Both of them have completed their training.

Hyderabad

A collection of unpublished letters of Nawaz Khan Ṣamṣām-ud-Daulah has been unearthed in the Persian Manuscript Section of the Asafia Library, Hyderabad, according to an article contributed by Dr. Yusuf Husain Khan to the April 1947 issue of *Islamic Culture*. Ṣamṣām-ud-Daulah, as is well-known, was the Minister of Nāsir Jang and later Wakīl-i-Muṭlaq of Salābat Jang and is the famous author of Ma'athir-ul-Umarā, a comprehensive biographical dictionary of Mughal peerage. Dr. Khan reports that one set of these letters was found attached to *Inshā'i-Musavī Khān*, No. 201 and another set attached to the manuscript copy of *Bahāristan-i-Sukhan*, No. 193.

There is no mention of either in the catalogue of the Library or in the manuscript volumes themselves. The collections consist of Ṣamṣām-ud-Daulah's official and private correspondence. The letters are likely to be of immense value to the students interested in the history of the Deccan during the early half of the eighteenth century. The persons addressed by the author of the letters include Ālamgīr II, the Mughal Emperor, Firuz Jang, Wazīr-ul-Mamālik, Nāsir Jang, Peshwā Bālāji Rao, Malhar Rao Holkar, Dupleix and many others.

Rajgarh (Central India)

The State Record Office has taken up the appraisal and arrangement of the old records of the Rulers from the time of Narpat Singhji to that of late Bal Bahadur Singhji. These records cover the period from 1740 to 1900 A.D. and have so long been lying in the Record Room in a state of complete disorder. The records relating to the accession, marriages and funeral ceremonies of the Rajas, collection of land revenue, and receipts and expenditure have been the first to receive the attention of the Records Officer. They are being carefully sorted out and those found to be of value are being arranged in chronological order. Under the new system the records of each reign are to be kept separately. Among other collections taken up mention may be made of the Persian and Urdu letters received from the Bhopal Agency relating to the time of Munshi Jan Ali Khan, Superintendent under Raja Moti Singh, and the records belonging to the *Deorhi kalan* (the household of the Senior Rani).

Pudukottai

The Pudukottai State Museum contains an interesting collection of copperplate documents relating mostly to the period of anarchy which intervened between the decline of the Vijayanagara empire and the establishment of the present ruling dynasty. Many of them furnish valuable material for the study of the different systems of land tenure obtaining in South India. A few of the copperplates record grants by the early Tondaiman rulers and range from 1733 to 1804. They throw a flood of light on the early history of the Tondaiman clan.

Cochin

Through the courtesy of the Chief Secretary to the Cochin Government we have received a brief list of the interesting collections in the State Record Office. Some of the important series are:—Miscellaneous Correspondence between the officials of the East India Company and the rulers of the Cochin State; the Resident's letters; the Diaries of the Diwans; Demi-official Correspondence of the Diwans of the State; Orders passed in the Huzur Cutcheri, the Jamabandi, the Devaswom,

the Rayasom, the Police and the Chouki Branches; the Commands of the ruling princes; State Accounts; records relating to land-revenue settlements; *hukumnamas*, acts and proclamations; important deeds and agreements executed in favour of the Government; and records relating to inter-state boundary disputes. The earliest records so far examined date back to 1684 A.D.

Among recent publications mention may be made of *Letters from the Rajas of Cochin to Batavia* (published 1946). The listing of the collections so far unlisted has been taken up. The indexing and cataloguing of the important series of documents is in progress.

Bengal

The Manuscript Collection of Visvabharati.—The history of the Manuscript Collection at Visvabharati dates back to the very inception of the Institution, when under the inspiration and guidance of Rabindranath Tagore progress in the collection of manuscripts from different parts of the country as well as from abroad was greatly accelerated. The Visvabharati now claims to have in its repository 3,521 manuscripts written in Bengali, Persian, Tamil, Oriya and Devanagari scripts. A descriptive catalogue of 274 manuscripts has been prepared and the cataloguing of other manuscripts is in progress. Of particular interest to archivists will be a permit issued for the export of playing cards during the East India Company's regime.

China Bhavana, Santiniketan.—The Library of the China Bhavana consists of over 100,000 fascicles of Chinese books including the Sung edition (10th century A.D.) and the most recent reproduction of the Tshin or the so-called Dragon edition (1936) of the Buddhist Tripitaka, and a large number of select Chinese works, representing the Chinese classics, History, Philosophy and Literature. Besides these, many Chinese works including books on art and some excellent collection of Chinese paintings also enrich the collection.

Bombay

The Secretariat Record Office, Bombay, has been strengthened by the appointment, on 10 July, of Dr. P. M. Joshi, M.A., Ph.D. (Lond.), to the newly created post of the Director of Archives. Previous to his appointment Dr. Joshi held the post of Librarian, Bombay University Library, one of the most important book repositories in the Province of Bombay. We wish him a happy and successful career.

North-West Frontier Province

Mr. S. M. Jaffar, the first Keeper of Records and Director of Historical Research to the Government of North-West Frontier

Province, who had been deputed by his Government to the National Archives of India, completed his study of Archives-administration on 17 June, 1947. During his stay at the National Archives he re-arranged about 225 bundles of records and succeeded in rehabilitating about 4,000 brittle documents belonging to his Government. The repaired documents include a unique collection of about one hundred maps relating to various strategic areas in or about his province. On the completion of his work the National Archives delivered to him the entire collection of the records belonging to the Government of the North-West Frontier Province, which that Department had been holding in its custody as a trust since 1941. These records are to form the nucleus of the new archive-collection of the Government at Peshawar.

Madras

Madras Record Office.—The Record Office continues to be at Chittoor where it was shifted during the War. Recent acquisitions of the Record Office include the records of the various Secretariat Offices relating to the year 1942. Among the publications issued by the office during 1946-47 mention may be made of *Diary and Consultations of the Public Department*, 1756, Volume 86; *Manilha Consultations*, 1762-63, Volume 3; *Letters from Fort St. George*, 1751-52 and 1762, Volumes 32 and 37; *Letters to Fort St. George*, 1751 and 1765, Volume 32 and 45. A number of volumes, including four of the *Diary and Consultation Series*, one volume of *Public Despatches from England*, one of *Mayor's Court Proceedings* and two volumes of *Indexes* are in the press. Volume II of J. J. Cotton's *List of Inscriptions on Tombs and Monuments* (Madras) has been reissued. The Curator has also published an eight-page pamphlet entitled *Note on the Preservation of Archives* dealing with some of the important questions connected with archives-keeping.

The Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947

It was a happy inspiration which led the Central Legislature to place on the statute book an Act to control the export of antiquities. The new Act is called the *Antiquities (Export Control) Act, 1947* and enjoins that 'no person shall export any antiquity except under the authority of a licence granted by the Central Government'. Among the subjects defined as 'antiquities' one is delighted to find not only coins and epigraphs but also manuscripts which have been in existence for one hundred years or more. As a large number of records and historical manuscripts both in private and public repositories in India are more than one hundred years old the new Act is expected to put an effective check on the export of records and historical manuscripts of all categories barring those which are of comparatively recent

origin. The Act further provides that 'if any question arises whether an article, or object or thing is not an antiquity for the purposes of this Act, it shall be referred to the Director-General of Archaeology in India; and his decision thereon will be final'. It will be recalled that the Indian Historical Records Commission has already submitted to the Government of India a proposal for public records legislation that would ensure the preservation of all records of national value and prevent their export, dispersal and destruction. The proposal is now under the consideration of Government.

CHINA

Manuscript finds at Tunhuang

It is learnt from a report recently received that sixty-six volumes of manuscripts and thirty-two pieces of broken tablets were discovered near the caves of Thousand Buddhas at Tunhuang in 1945. The credit of the discovery goes to the members of the National Tunhuang Arts Library Institute, who unearthed the new finds from among a group of dilapidated clay Buddha images of a ruined temple. The manuscripts have been found to be both of historical and cultural interest. Three of them are dated 453, 450, 486 A.D. respectively. One of the most interesting finds are a few leaves from a government directory relating to the period between the 4th and 6th centuries.

Tunhuang, it will be recalled, was a prosperous city on the silk road fifteen hundred years ago. According to tradition the caves date back to 352 A.D. They served as places of worship to the numerous tradesmen and adventurers who continually passed through the city.

Sino-French Institute of Sinological Studies, Peiping

The institute was founded in 1941 by a number of Chinese and French scholars in Peiping with a view to conducting scientific researches on various aspects of Chinese culture. Among the chief activities of the Institute several are connected with documentation, and as such will be of interest to archivists. Two items of work undertaken by the Institute deserve special mention: (1) collection of Han rubbings, which was begun in 1943; and (2) collection of documentary photographs. The Institute has acquired about 400 specimens of rubbings pertaining to the Han dynasty.

National Library, Peiping

The library has received as gift over one thousand volumes of rare and out-of-the-way Ming and Ch'ing books, manuscripts, Patents of Honour, and land deeds from Mr. T. K. Koo of the library staff,

who collected them as a hobby. A few interesting items are: the printer's proof copy of the Ch'ing palace edition of the Dynastic annals; the early Ch'ing manuscript copy of the Ming history *Kuo ch'ueh*; letters of Yu Min-chung on the Szu-k'u-ch'uan-shu; a Ming land title-deed from Kashing; a Ming land sales deed from Hang Chow, with two subsequent sale deeds of the Ch'ing K'ang-hsi period; several Ch'ing house deeds from Peking; a Ming patent in Chinese and Tibetan; draft of a part of the Regulations of the Board of Works, Kuang-hsu period, with many autograph corrections by Weng T'ung-ho; and a Mongolian Chinese Glossary believed to be the only existing Ming printed book in Mongolian.

Recovery of Cultural objects

Since about the middle of the 19th century China has lost many of her cultural objects including manuscripts, rare books and art treasures. Most of these now adorn foreign museums, libraries and private collections. A movement has been afoot for some time past to make a census of these lost treasures with a view to bringing them back. The Chinese Ministry of Education is being helped in this great work by the Commission for the Liquidation of War-time Losses in China. Although the immediate programme of the Commission relates to the question of recovering the cultural objects taken away by Japan during the late war, it is actively interesting itself in the more general problem of extraditing all objects of value which have left China's shore up till now. From a report submitted by Mr. Han Li-wu, Vice-Minister of Education to the Commission it appears that the Foreign Ministry has transmitted to General MacArthur's Headquarters in Tokyo a comprehensive memorandum on the liquidation of the War-time Losses of Chinese cultural objects. Steps are also being taken to recover the objects shifted by Italy during the Boxer Outbreak of 1898. 30,000 volumes of books belonging to the Sun Yat-sen University, Canton, Nankai University, Tientsin and Royal Asiatic Society, North China Branch, Shanghai, have been discovered in Japan. Negotiation is being made for their restoration to China. Dr. Li Chi has compiled an inventory of Chinese cultural objects removed by Japan during her occupation of Manchuria. Dr. T. L. Yuan made a census of the Chinese cultural objects in Germany during his recent visit to that country. He has prepared for the Commission an inventory of the objects, which is now under the consideration of the Foreign Ministry.

BRITISH ISLES

Master of the Roll's Archive Committee

Reference was made in the January issue of the *Indian Archives* to the scope and functions of the Committee. The details of the final

report of the Committee submitted to the Master of the Rolls in October 1946 have since been made available to the public. In this report the Committee recommends the setting up, under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records of a NATIONAL ARCHIVES COUNCIL: consisting of representatives nominated by the Lord Chancellor, the President of the Probate, Admiralty and Divorce Division of the High Court and the Minister of Health; the Keeper of Manuscripts in the British Museum and the Secretary of the Historical Manuscripts Commission; the President of the Royal Historical Society or his nominee; and representatives of the British Records Association, the Association of Municipal Corporations, the Law Society, the Church of England and of private owners of historical manuscripts; together with representatives of other interests to be co-opted from time to time for special purposes.

The Committee further recommends that County and County Borough Councils should be placed under a *statutory obligation* to provide accommodation for their own official records together with the necessary technical and administrative staff. Provision for archives should be regarded as a new service and local authorities should be entitled to a grant of at least 50 per cent. from Government funds towards their approved expenditure. It is further proposed to invest local authorities with power to provide accommodation for archives belonging to private individuals and semi-public bodies who, for various reasons, find themselves unable to do what is necessary. They are at the same time to be under an obligation to furnish adequate facilities for repair of documents and make provision for the examination and study by responsible students, under proper safeguards, of all archives in their custody, both their own and those deposited by other bodies and persons. Local authorities with established Record Offices of their own are to appoint a special Records Committee composed of persons having specialized knowledge of the subject. The Records staff are to be placed under the direction of an Archivist with an appropriate university degree and adequate training in the use and nature of archives.

Convinced that a necessary first step towards any measure for effective archive control was the compilation of a National Register the Committee has already set up a body of experts to do this work. Under the Committee's proposal this body is to classify the records into three grades: (1) *starred archives* or those of undoubted national importance; (2) *listed archives* or those having undoubted permanent value for historical purposes, but having no 'national' quality; and (3) *unimportant archives*. The Committee believes that the *starred archives* should be subject to inspection by the National Archives Council, and that they should not leave the kingdom, should not change location or ownership without the National Council being informed, should be kept under suitable and safe conditions, preferably in the

custody of their natural owners or custodians but, if this were not possible, in an approved public repository, and should be reasonably available for examination. As regards *listed archives* the Committee is of the opinion that they should be subject to inspection by the proposed National Archives Council and should not be alienated, dispersed or destroyed without that authority being informed in advance.

In order to enable the National Archives Council to deal satisfactorily with the above matters, the Committee proposes that the Council should be given a statutory power to make regulations which would (1) from time to time specify the different archives or classes of archives to be dealt with under each; (2) contain provisions as to the custody and control of such archives and as to the rights, powers and duties of the owners and present custodians and of the local authorities who might be concerned in their future custody; (3) formulate for Local Authorities and others rules in regard to the elimination of modern documents not judged worthy of permanent preservation in an approved public repository; (4) arrange for securing access to archives by historians and students; and (5) deal with such other matters as might from time to time be thought advisable.

As regards *Family Archives* the Committee recognizes that they are private property and does not advise any drastic action in respect of them except with the express object of preserving valuable records and making them available for purposes of historical research where that task cannot be satisfactorily carried out by the owners.

The functions of the National Archives Council are to be mainly advisory in character and in the Committee's view it would be necessary to resort to any measure of compulsion only in extreme cases where there was reason to believe that wanton destruction, damages or dispersal of valuable records was likely.

National Library of Wales

The Handlist of Manuscripts in the National Library of Wales, which has been published by the Keeper of Manuscripts and Records of the Library as Supplements to the National Library of Wales Journals, contains a general description of the Library's holdings in manuscript volumes. Among the collections dealt with specially deserving of notice is the Hengwrt Peniarth Collection, the assembling of which was begun by Robert Vaughan in the 17th century and was acquired by the Library in 1909. The Collection is said to be the most valuable group of Welsh manuscripts in existence. Among recent acquisitions are a group of manuscripts presented by Major P. R. Davis-Cooke, and the only known copy of the first book printed in Welsh.

Bodleian Library

The recent acquisitions of the Bodleian Library include: Letter of King James I to the Earl of Shrewsbury 31 March 1603; D. Scott's narrative of General Conway's military tour to the Continent, 1774; F. T. Palgrave, Journal of a visit to Paris with B. Jowett, A. P. Stanley and R. B. Morier, April 1848; Letter copybook of Rear Admiral L. E. W. Somerset, 1880-1881; Journal of Occurrences in Quebec, 1775-1776. It is learnt that the Duke of Portland has deposited on loan his Nelson papers and that twelve Almshouse Archives have been received as a loan from its trustees. Mr. H. L. Creswell, the present Librarian of Bodleian has decided to resign at the end of the present session. Mr. J. N. L. Myers, the famous historian is to take his place. Mr. Myers has been Librarian of Christ Church since 1937.

Hakluyt Society, London

The Hakluyt Society completed the first hundred years of its eventful existence on December 15, 1946. A volume of essays entitled *Richard Hakluyt and his Successors* has been published by the Society to commemorate the occasion. One of the most interesting essays included in the volume is *English Collections of Voyages and Travels*, 1625–1846 in which its contributors, Messrs. Crone and Skelton present a comprehensive historical review of the enormous mass of travel literature that has grown in England since 'Hakluytus Posthumus' published *Purchas His Pilgrimes.* Of more immediate interest is the retrospect narrative of the Society itself contributed by Sir William Foster, who has, incidentally, been associated with the Society for more than half a century. We are told that the idea of founding the Society originated with William Desborough Cooley, the geographer and author of a number of critical studies on geography and exploration. He it was through whose efforts the Society held its first meeting on December 15, 1846, and accepted as its programme the printing of rare and valuable books on voyages and travels. Among the personalities which composed the Society's Council about this time we find names like those of John Forster, the bibliographer, Henry Hart Milman, the historian and Monckton Milnes, the social reformer. It is also interesting to note that Charles Dickens was one of the earliest subscribers of the Society. In another article Dr. Edward Lynam, the Society's President and editor of the present volume deals with its present difficulties and future problems. Regretting the increased expense of printing books he suggests as a remedy enlarging the society's membership and appealing to a larger public by choosing materials from a wider field. Among other interesting contents mention may be made of the scholarly and well-informed essay on Hakluyt by Dr. J. A. Williamson and that on Purchas by Sir William Foster.

The recent publications of the Society include the *Voyage* of Theddeus Bellingshausen, who sailed to the Antarctic seas between 1819–1821 and the *Pilgrimage* of Arnold Von Haff, Knight, who travelled through Italy, Syria, Nubia, Palestine, Turkey, France and Spain from 1496 to 1499. The first has been translated from Russian by Frank Debenham, O.B.E., M.A. The second is a translation from German by Malcolm Letts.

British Records Association

Bulletin 16 published by the Technical Section of the British Records Association contains a selection of the articles already published in *Bulletins* 1–15. The articles deal with diverse topics connected with archives-keeping and offer advice on questions such as planning an archive building, lighting muniment rooms, shelving and boxing records, treatment of faded writings, deciphering charred documents, storage and repair of maps, treatment of leather bindings, preparation of paste, protection of records against bookworms, use of microfilm and infra-red photography. Particularly interesting is the short note in which Dr. Plenderleith describes several processes of deciphering charred documents. One of the processes consists in applying ammonium sulphide to the document and photographing it as soon as the writing is revived. Another method is to eliminate the shine of the blackened paper through a polarizing screen and then to decipher the writing with the aid of a reading glass. Photograph of charred documents can be taken by using high-contrast blue sensitive plates. It is further claimed that the application of chloral hydrate followed by glycerine prior to the use of camera is likely to yield good results in the case of certain types of manuscript materials. As regards carbonized paper the *Bulletin* recommends the process devised by Mr. Cherrill of New Scotland Yard. This consists in placing the carbonized sheet upon a glass plate in the bottom of a clean photographic dish and pouring over it a 5 per cent aqueous solution of silver nitrate. A second glass plate is lowered into the solution by one edge so as to exclude air bubbles. It is claimed that within about three hours the writing becomes clearly visible as a black image against a grey background. For permanent record the sheet is to be rinsed in several changes of distilled water and then dried rapidly.

Equally interesting is a Memorandum entitled *Modern War Records* (B.R.A. Memorandum No. 9) which suggests the principles to be followed in appraising the enormous mass of records created by the various organization which sprang into existence in consequence of the war. For the purposes of selection the Memorandum classifies these records into three main groups:

(1) *Public* or those which come under the purview of the Public Records Office Acts; (2) *Local* or those under the control of the Local

authorities; and (3) *Voluntary and Independent* or those created by *ad hoc* voluntary organizations whether linked with any Government Department or entirely independent, and enumerates the various classes of materials under each group which are worthy of preservation. The following extracts dealing with *Methods of Selection* will be of interest to those who may have to face similar problems in India:

(i) It is most desirable to select Records for preservation with the aid of some officer who is familiar with the system used, and with the inter-relation of various classes of documents.

(ii) Originals should generally be kept, in preference to copies; but annotated or marked copies may be of importance.

(iii) Narratives of officials can be of great value and should be preserved. They have not, however, the evidential force of contemporary Reports or of other Records, and these should never be destroyed merely because they have been summarized in narrative form.

(iv) Regularly issued Reports and Publications are none the less records because they are printed and care should be taken to preserve one or more complete sets of such publications.

(v) The application of the above methods may occasionally result in the preservation of duplicates. A second revision may make it possible to destroy these; but it should be remembered that the very presence of a duplicate in a particular context can have significance.

(vi) In general, the object should be to retain a complete picture of the organization, with record of important developments or incidents.

Other publications of the Association include a twenty-page pamphlet entitled *Notes for the Guidance of Editors of Records Publications*, which is really a manual of styles for documentary publications compiled for the use of editors by the Committee of the Publications Section. Many of the points dealt with in the present manual have already been covered in the two reports on editing historical documents which appeared in Vol. I (1923), pp. 6–25 and Vol. III (1925), pp. 13–26, of the *Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research*. (The second of these has been reprinted in the April issue of the *Indian Archives*.) The Committee has offered some valuable suggestions on the difficult problem of partial publication, i.e. of publishing selections from a series of documents, or even from a single document. It is of the opinion that partial publication is better than no publication at all, and that the widest interests would be served by publishing in full documents selected from a series at chronological intervals, rather than by starting at the beginning and never proceeding very far in time. As regards calendaring the Committee takes a different stand from that taken by the Anglo-American Historical

Committee. While the latter recommends calendaring by 'shortening of a document by means of the omission or abbreviation of non-essential parts, while retaining the exact phraseology of the writer in other parts', the former prefers summarizing a document in the editor's own words. Both the Committees, however, are in agreement as to the primary function of the editor which is to present the text so that it is useful to both the ordinary reader and the scholar; the former should be able to see the sense of the original, the latter to know with certainty what is the actual text.

Public Record Office, London

The activities of the Public Record Office are mirrored in a number of publications recently issued under its auspices. Particularly deserving of notice are the two Calendars of State Papers, one belonging to the Domestic series and the other dealing with England's relations with Spain. The former constitutes the twenty-eighth in the Domestic series and is entitled *Charles II; Addenda.* It consists of abstracts of documents which are not included in the main chronological series relating to Charles II and throws a flood of light on various aspects of the history of the period. It will be recalled that the series was begun by Miss Mary Anne Everett Green and her first volume appeared in 1894. On her death in 1895 the series was continued by F. H. B. Daniells, who was also responsible for the preparation of the materials of the present volume. The volume has been revised by Francis Bickley.

The volume on Spanish affairs is entitled *Further Supplement to Letters, Despatches and State Papers relating to the Negotiations between England and Spain Preserved in the Archives at Vienna and Elsewhere (1513–1542)* and consists mostly of documents abstracted from the collection of the papers of Emperor Charles V housed in the State Archives at Vienna. The editor, Mr. Garret Mattingly, has contributed a succinct account of the affairs of the Emperor's Ambassadors in England during the period.

Sir C. T. Flower has retired from the office of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Record Office, his place being taken by Mr. Hilary Jenkinson, M.A., F.S.A. Mr. Jenkinson needs no introduction to the archivists in India. He is the author of *A Manual of Archive Administration, Court Hand Illustrated* and a number of important studies on several aspects of archives keeping and archive preservation, which have become classics. With the British Records Association, of which he is one of the makers, he has been associated since its very inception in a number of capacities and has served it in every possible way. We wish him a happy and successful career.

The Library Association

The status of the Librarian and the future of the library profession formed one of the main themes on which Mr. R. J. Gordon's presidential address delivered at the Annual Conference of the Library Association (held in Brighton from 9 to 13 June) was based. Regretting the fact that only 25 per cent of the total population was attracted to public lending libraries although 97 years had elapsed since the passing of the first Public Library Act, Mr. Gordon found its explanation mainly in inadequate book-stocks, drab buildings, failure of education to create among the public any real sense of the value of books and libraries, and above all, defective librarianship. Of particular interest to the members of the profession in this country would be what the eminent English librarian has to say on the present system of turning out librarians:

'Following the example set by educationists, who select, somewhat casually, I think, young people for a one-year course of lectures and turn them loose as teachers, we have decided that, after the Entrance Examination, one year's instruction mainly by means of lectures is enough to allow a young assistant to become a chartered Librarian......... The conditions of today make it imperative that the public librarian, who controls what is perhaps the largest and most influential of the few organizations still left to us which are concerned with the development of the individual mind, should be able to ensure that his library provides the means whereby the citizen can obtain reliable and authoritative information on all matters of public concern. Can the librarian of the future develop the critical judgment necessary for this task if his training consists of instruction only, and if at a time when he should begin to broaden and develop his intelect, he is led to believe that he is a competent librarian? The technique of librarianship is important enough, but I believe the really vital aspects of librarianship cannot be taught; they can only be acquired through rigorous self-training, through observation, and, most important of all, through wide and critical reading. I do not for one moment suggest that it is either possible or wise for us to attempt to stem the swift current of educational misconceptions; we must go with the stream and provide our degrees, diplomas and what-nots like the other fellow; but, observing as we do in our work the effects of the spread of the diploma habit, let us be honest with our young colleagues and make it clear to them that when they are qualified under our scheme their real education in librarianship begins.'

Pressing for a complete and drastic reorganization of the Library Association as an essential first step towards a better state of things Mr. Gordon recommended that the Association should be provided with a staff to plan and carry through all kinds of measures to enhance

the prestige and value of libraries. The Association in his view also needed a live and provocative journal and a research department to study and make pronouncements on library policy, on the use of books, on the book interest of readers, and other matters. He had nothing but condemnation for the view which held that the librarian should wait for his readers and borrowers to come to him. In his opinion it was the librarian's duty to do everything in his power to create a demand for his service, 'by arranging book and pictorial exhibitions, by the issue of booklists, by holding play readings, discussion groups......gramophone recitals........anything and everything likely to attract the many who have no conception of the variety of interest the contemporary library caters for.'

The full text of Mr. Gordon's address has been published in *The Library Association: Papers and Summaries of Discussions At The Brighton Conference, 1947*. Among the papers included mention may be made of those on librarianship during the war, further education and the library service, urban and country librarianship, public library building of the future and book supply of the future.

British Museum

The Department of Printed Books has been strengthened by the appointment of Sir Henry Thomas to the newly created post of Principal Keeper. Mr. A. I. Ellis and Mr. C. B. Oldman two of the Deputy Keepers in the Department have been appointed Keepers, each being entrusted with an independent section of the Department. The work on the new edition of General Catalogue of Printed Books is in progress. So far 40 volumes have been issued covering the letters A, B and C.

National Library of Scotland

The Library has acquired a number of new incunabula including a hitherto unknown *Horae* printed by Pigouchet, Paris, 26 September, 1493, and the Mainz Catholicon, 1460. The last was deposited by Lord Linlithgow. Other notable acquisitions include Scottish books printed before 1700, papers relating to Mary, Queen of Scots, the Wardlaw Manuscripts, Melville papers and last but not least, letters of Carlyle, Boswell and Livingstone.

National Register of Archives (Scotland)

On the recommendation of the Historical Manuscript Commission Scottish Archivists have undertaken the compiling of a Register of all documents and records illustrative of every aspect of Scottish life and history. The Register is to be compiled under the guidance of a directorate consisting of the following members: Dr. William Angus,

Keeper of the Registers and Records of Scotland; Dr. H. W. Meikle, His Majesty's Historiographer in Scotland; Mr. Henry M. Paton, Curator of Historical Records, His Majesty's General Register House, Edinburgh; Professor J. D. Mackie of the Chair of Scottish History and Literature in the University of Glasgow; Professor W. Croft Dickinson of the Fraser Chair of Ancient (Scottish) History and Palaeography in the University of Edinburgh; and Mr. R. C. Reid of Cleughbrae, Dumfries.

The Register will take the form of a detailed card-index, topographically arranged, and will cover all documents relating to the past activities of the state, of corporations and societies, and of business and families. It will be kept in the Register House, Edinburgh where it will be available for research. As the necessary details cannot be compiled and checked without the help and goodwill of all authorities, firms and individuals who have documents and records in their possessions an appeal has been issued to the public with a view to enlisting its co-operation in the work of compilation. Those ready to assist are required to furnish information on the following points: the name of the owner of a collection; the location of the collection; the name and address of custodian (if different from that of owner); and the covering dates and approximate quantities of each type of archive found. To facilitate answer to the last question a list has been compiled of normal types of archives likely to be in private custody. As the method of classification adopted is likely to be of some interest to Indian archivists working in the same field the entire list is reproduced below:

1. Muniments of Title:—e.g. *Charters and Deeds; Cartularies and Registers; Inventories.*

2. Records of Estate Management:—e.g. *Barony Court Books; Rentals; Surveys; Maps and Plans; Accounts and Vouchers; Improvement Schemes; Correspondence.*

3. Records of Household Management:—e.g. *Accounts; Inventories; Architectural Plans; Recipes and other Memoranda.*

4. Personal Papers:—e.g. *Letter Books and Original Correspondence; Certificates of Birth, Marriage and Death; Wills; Commissions, Grants, Licences and Passports; Diaries and Commonplace Books; Notes of Family History, Pedigrees and Genealogical Memoranda; Old Printed Broadsheets, Tracts and Pamphlets.*

5. Legal Papers:—e.g. *Opinions; Court Processes and Correspondence; Style Books.*

6. Business Archives:—e.g. *Minutes; Accounts and Vouchers; Ledgers, Journals, and other Books and Related Correspondence.*

7. Papers and Documents which may have been acquired in an official capacity (such as Chancellor, Chamberlain or other Officer of State; Sheriff; Lord Lieutenant; Army Officer; County Representative; or Justice of the Peace):—e.g. *State Papers and Records; Sheriff Court Books; Books of Regality and other Local Courts; Army, Navy and Militia Records; Muster Rolls; Assessment Rolls; Heritors' Records; Protocol Books; Records of Incorporated Trades, Clubs and Societies.*

8. Miscellaneous:—e.g. *Newsletters, Chronicles; Literary Manuscripts; Church Manuscripts (including Kirk-session and Presbytery Records); Notes on Local History; Unpublished Treatises.*

The leaflet issued with the appeal lays special stress on the value of the so-called 'unimportant records'. The following extract will repay perusal: 'private accumulations have often been found to

contain important evidence about public affairs; equally often they have proved to be of fundamental importance not only for scholars, but also for general reference in a variety of practical purposes. In addition, the more ancient archives frequently serve purposes of which their compilers never dreamt. For example, calculations relative to the cost of living at the present time are built up not merely on the statistics of today or yesterday but on the household accounts and other transactions of much earlier generations. The earliest extant specimens of vernacular writing, Scots and Gaelic, are contained in ordinary private writs and legal notitiæ relating to land-transactions which have survived down the ages. A routine note of the incidental expenses accidentally preserved among excise records of 1795 reveals precise details of the official life of Burns. A small parchment of date 1171 preserved in the Newcastle Collection provides the first Scottish reference to a Jew. Examples might be multiplied indefinitely. In effect, all records, however *useless* and *unattractive to* their immediate custodians, are more than evidences of Scottish history—they are the actual material of it, and as such should be preserved as part of our national heritage.'

GERMANY

The Archives of the German Social Democratic Party

It is now authoritatively learnt that a considerable part of these archives have survived the havoc of the last war. These archives were originally located in the Vorwaerts building in Berlin and included all the manuscripts of Marx, Angels, Bebel, Liebknecht, Kautsky and other distinguished men connected with the movement. Before the outbreak of the war Mr. Boris I. Nicholaevsky, Director of the Russian section of the archives, succeeded in transferring to France the whole of the collection. He was helped in his mission both by M. Leon Blum and Julien Caen. Before the fall of Paris some of the papers were sent to the University of Oxford. Others were kept concealed in a tunnel under a farm-house near Paris. M. Blum persuaded William C. Bullitt, the United States ambassador to France to take away a select collection of these documents. The papers were deposited by the latter in the Library of Congress, which still continues to shelter them.

NETHERLANDS

From a letter addressed by Dr. Graswinckel, Archivist of the Netherlands, to the Archivist of the United States (published in the *American Archivist*, January, 1947) it appears that the Archives in the Hague as well as other places are safe. They are still packed

in shelter and arrangement is being made to restore them to their original places.

Major Seymour J. Pomrenze was recently awarded by the Netherlands Government the Silver Medal of Honour in recognition of work performed by him at the Offenback Archival Depot in gathering and restituting to the Netherlands records, books and other cultural objects removed from the country by the Nazis.

NORWAY

Records of Indian interest in Norwegian Archives

The following extracts taken from a letter of Asgaut Steinnes, State Archivist, Norway, to the Director of Archives, Government of India, will be of interest to Indian archivists:

'The Riksarkiv has a number of documents concerning Peter Anker, governor 1786–1806 of the Danish colony of Tranquebar. As will be seen from the list enclosed, these documents are to be found in Private Archives 3 and in the archives of the Eidsvoll Building (the latter are only deposed at the Riksarkiv). With the exception of the numbers 114, 118, 123 and 127 of the archives of the Eidsvoll Building, nearly all the documents are in Danish.

'I beg to call your attention to the fact that Denmark and Norway were, until 1814, united. The official language was Danish, and Tranquebar was considered as a Danish colony; Peter Anker was, however, a Norwegian.

'For orientation, I add a few notes on Peter Anker, extracted from Norsk biografisk leksikon, Vol. I, p. 191 f.: When Peter Anker arrived in Tranquebar, conditions in the colony were very difficult; corruption and quarrels among the officials, discontent and revolt among the Indians; the war between the English and Tipu Sahib added to the difficulties. Already during the first year of his governorship Anker succeeded in procuring a loan for the Rajah of Tanjore, and by this means obtained a considerable extension of the territory of Tranquebar for some years (until 1800). He managed to keep Tranquebar neutral during the hostilities in the nineties, and to bring some order into the military organisation of the colony. His energy and arbitrary ways brought him in conflict with a great part of the officials and a party among the Indians; a Hindoo named Sinnapa in 1795 went to Copenhagen with a complaint against him, and the government nominated a "commissorium" of Danes in Tranquebar —partly enemies of Anker's—to examine the matter; the case was ended in 1802 with a complete success for Anker. During the short war which followed the English attack on the port of Copenhagen in 1801, Tranquebar was occupied by the English from May 1801 until Aug. 1802.—During Anker's governorship the financial conditions of the colony became very good. When he retired he received a

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number of grateful addresses from all layers of the population in Tranquebar.'

Private Archives 3

Peter Anker and Sinapa Neik (9 small pages).

P. Anker. Dispatches 1796–1804 (59 small pages).

Embassy from Tranquebar to the Rajah of Tanjour 1800 (11 pages).

The Papers of Carsten Anker. IV. D. 1-2. E. 1-2. D. 1: Letters of Peter Anker. (A considerable number of documents concerning Peter Anker as governor.)

A.-C. Various documents. (Contain documents concerning the Asiatic Company, opium trade (19 pages), a claim on the Nabob of £13,053 (4 pages), etc.)

Archives of the Eidsvoll Building

(deposed in the Riksarkiv)

No. 46: Embassy from the government of Tranquebar Feb. 10th, 1798. (35 pages.)

No. 47: Copy of promemoria dated Tranquebar Feb. 10th, 1798; promemoria from Sinnianaiker (?) and others. (29 pages.)

No. 114: Indian Politics in 1797. (28 pages.)

No. 116: History of the Danish East Indian Establishment by Henning Engelhart, 1791. (About 186 pages.)

No. 117: The Sinnapa Commissions Act with declarations and letters concerning the case. (About 150 pages.)

No. 118: Account of the sufferings etc. (see Encl. I). (68 pages.)

No. 119: The embassy from the government of Tranquebar to Hyder Ally in 1781. (About 34 pages.)

No. 120: Report on the war in the East Indies in the years 1790, 1791, and 1792. (About 80 pages, and two water-colours representing Seringapatam and Bangalore in 1719.)

No. 123: Account of the Danish, etc. (see Encl. I). (About 48 pages, with a map of the Oriental Seas and Islands, and extract of a letter concerning the establishment of Nicobar (2 pages).)

No. 124: Accounts of General Major Anker concerning his voyage and establishment in the East Indies. (17 pages, with enclosed letter dated Tranquebar, Jan. 10th, 1819.)

No. 125: Private accounts of General Major Anker concerning his voyage and establishment, Nov. 1787—July 1806. (A considerable number of pages, bound in a book.)

No. 126: Private report of General Major Anker. (About 72 pages.)

No. 127: Copy of the original, etc. (see Encl. I). (About 86 pages.)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The National Archives, Washington, D.C.

One of the largest collections of records to come to the National Archives depository within recent months are the files of the Collector

of Customs at 52 ports in the United States and Alaska ranging from 1789 to 1901. Other acquisitions of note include the records of the Office of the Scientific Research and Development, 1940–46, the records of several German-owned firms in the U.S.A. that were seized by the Alien Property Custodian at the beginning of World War II, and the files of the Joint Committee on the organization of Congress, 1945-46.

The *Twelfth Annual Report on the National Archives for the fiscal year 1945-46* has just been received. The report reveals the careful way in which the Archivist and his staff were able to handle the huge mass of records received from the numerous demolished departments which the war had brought into existence. Equally productive has been the labour devoted by the National Archives staff on the records of peace time. We are told that the Archives has been able to bring under its protection the bulk of the records of permanent importance up to 1920. The work of check-listing also is in progress and we read that during the year under report the National Archives check-listed more records than it received.

Under the reorganization effected on January 1, 1947, the National Archives Establishment was reconstituted to consist of 11 major offices, besides that of the Archivist. The Archivist's office includes the Assistant Archivist (Dan Lacy), the Programme Adviser (Dr. Oliver W. Holmes), Chief of the Division of Exhibits and Publications (Elizabeth E. Hamer) and Chief of the Division of Personnel Management (Ralph W. Luten). Other offices are those of the Director of Administrative Services, the Secretary of the National Archives, the Director of Records Control, the Director of Legislative Service; the Director of General Records Office; the Director of Natural Resources Records Office, the Director of Industrial Records Office; the Director of War Records Office; the Director of Photographic Records Office; the Director of the Federal Register; the Director of Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park.

On Monday, April 7, the National Archives held a public exhibition of historic documents in the Archives Exhibition Hall, Constitution Avenue, to celebrate the anniversary of the declaration of War against Germany in World War I. All the major wars from the Revolution to World War II were represented by documents, sketches, maps, plans, photographs including those made by Mathew Brady during the Civil War, Medals and coloured prints of uniform. Special mention may be made in this connexion of General Washington's orderly books, including those containing the orders congratulating the army for the victory at Yorktown; the first treaty the United States made with a foreign power, namely, the alliance with France of 1778; General Andrew Jackson's letter describing the great victory he had won at New Orleans in 1812; and Ulysses Grant's famous letter, written in May 1864, stating that he proposes 'to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer'. Other exhibits include those relating to the

Mexican War of 1846–48 and the short-lived Spanish-American War in which Theodore Roosevelt took a prominent part, Hitler's marriage certificate, General Pershing's battle map and a number of interesting documents relating to the two World Wars. The exhibition remained open till the end of June.

Library of Congress, Washington

Recent acquisitions of the Library of Congress include the family papers of the three generations of the Ewing family, letters of Abigail Adams, wife of the second President of the United States ranging from 1784 to 1818 and the original manuscript of Abraham Lincoln's Autobiography written towards the close of 1859. Among other notable acquisitions mention may be made of a few unpublished letters of George Washington, President Munro, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson and others acquired by purchase and the personal memoirs of Dr. Hugo Heimann, a leading Social Democrat of Berlin, presented by Dr. B. J. Horde, President of the New School for Social Research. The memoirs commenced with the career of Dr. Heimann's grandfather in 1777 and came down through 1932. Dr. Heimann, it will be recalled, was an enthusiastic supporter of the Weimar Republic and was a member of the Reichstag during the 14 years of its existence. In 1899 he founded a public Library in Berlin, but, after the Nazi rise to power, he was forbidden to enter it. The memoirs will be a valuable source of information on the history of the Weimar Republic.

The Robert Todd Lincoln collection of the Papers of Abraham Lincoln, to which a reference was made in the April issue of the *Indian Archives,* was formally thrown open to the public on July 26. The opening ceremonies were attended by distinguished Lincoln scholars from all parts of the United States. The inaugurating address was delivered by Roy P. Basler, the Executive Secretary of the Abraham Lincoln Association, and an exhibition of a number of interesting documents in the collection was held in the Main Exhibition Hall at the conclusion of the ceremony. The collection consists of about 15,000 documents and forms the chief source on which Colonel John G. Nicolay and Colonel John Hay based their celebrated work on Abraham Lincoln.

Among noteworthy documents displayed in the Exhibitions recently organized by the Library the following deserve particular mention: the 'Bull of Demarcation' of Pope Alexander VI regarded as the earliest diplomatic document relating to America, being dated May 8, 1493; the oldest road map of France (1632); the earliest French road guide (1553); a letter from John Paul Jones, the founder of the U.S. Navy dated March 11, 1788, to Thomas Jefferson in which the former made certain curious observations on the powers of the

President of the U.S.A.; and a manuscript of 16th century Aztec drama. The last includes a play written against the evils of polygamy and is in its contemporary parchment binding.

Society of American Archivists

The Society held a joint meeting with the American Historical Association in New York on Friday, December 27. The two papers which were read at the meeting are: (1) 'Records and Record-keeping in International Government' by E. Wilder Spalding and (2) 'Archives of the United Nations' by Robert Claus. In pursuance of a resolution passed by the Council of the Society at the annual meeting held in October 1946, the Society has appointed a Committee of five persons to review its constitution in the light of past ten years' experience and to report to the Council such amendments as the Committee may consider desirable. The five members are Herbert E. Angel, Lester J. Cappon, R. D. W. Connor, A. R. Newsome and Christopher Crittenden (Chairman).

The Committee on Local Records which, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Harold S. Burt, was directed to explore ways and means of educating lay custodians of archival materials has produced a *Manual for Local Records Officers.* The *Manual* deals with such vital questions as the preservation and reduction of county records, laminating equipment, photographic equipment and processes, filing equipment and other supplies, record vaults, relations of local records officers with state archival agencies. It is now under the consideration of the Editorial Board.

The Committee on Archival Bibliography presided over by Dr. Ernst Posner is engaged in the compilation of a consolidated bibliography on archive science. The unusually heavy responsibilities which have devolved on Dr. Posner, since he was appointed the Dean of the School of Social Sciences, American University, Washington, prevented him from devoting much time to the work of compilation. Even then considerable progress has been made and the compilation is expected to be ready by the end of the year. Besides the compilation of the consolidated bibliography the committee's duties also include the preparation of an annual list of writings on Archives and Manuscripts which is published in the October issue of the *American Archivist* each year.

The Committee on International Relations has been engaged for some time past in laying the ground work for bringing the archivists of the world together in a World Congress as soon as possible. On September 19, 1946, the committee placed before Mr. Charles Thomson, the Acting Advisor of the Office of International Information and Cultural Affairs, State Department, U.S.A., a memorandum, which laid special stress on the need for holding at the earliest possible time

an International Conference of Archivists on immediate problems growing out of the War, and for the following purposes:

1. To form a permanent International Committee of Archivists the objects of which shall be to establish and maintain co-operative relations among archivists to advance the archival profession in all its studies and to foster the study of archival problems and to further the cause of friendship and peace among nations.
2. To discuss the universal problem of handling the great mass of modern records including the study of records administration, the use of technical aids, particularly those used in reproducing and repairing documents.
3. To arrange for exchange of information on scientific progress made in the care of archives, *including the study of buildings and* equipment.
4. To discuss the problem and make recommendations on record-keeping of international organizations and meetings on an international level.
5. To discuss archive problems involving the fate of records of former enemy countries.

The memorandum further recommended that the proposals outlined above should be formally placed by the United States Delegation before the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris in November. The proposal was considered by the Round Table on Cultural Institutions of the United States National Commission for UNESCO which made the following recommendations to the United States Delegation:

A. The Round Table believes that the development of archival services . . . is in the interest of the maintenance, increase and diffusion of information which is one of the objectives of UNESCO. In particular, the development of such services is in the interest of the preservation of the materials of research and the truth of the historical record, and *it is important furthermore for the advancement* of the studies dependent upon these materials that they be readily and equally available to the scholars of all countries. . . . .

B. The Round Table consequently recommends that UNESCO take the steps of promoting the formation of an international body of archivists which will make the development of archival service, exchange of personnel and general accessibility of archives its immediate and continuing concern and of securing from such a body recommendations on the custody and service of the archives of international bodies.

The efforts of the Committee have borne fruit in the recognition by the UNESCO, at its first General Conference in Paris on December 5, 1946, of the need for creating an international organization of professional archivists. A precis of the report approved by UNESCO on the subject has been published on a subsequent page.

Archival Building Projects

Interest in remodelling old repositories and constructing new archival buildings has continued unabated in the United States. The Alabama Department of Archives and History has completed its building, and plans are in progress for constructing the stack area. Plans for the completion of the Illinois State Library Building, of which the present Archives Building is the first unit, has also been drawn up and approved. In 1945 the Governor of Pennsylvania submitted to the legislature 'the greatest archival building programme thus far proposed in an American State'. The programme envisaged the expenditure of 6 million dollars for the state library, museum, archives, land and utilities. Out of this sum 2 millions were to be devoted to archival purpose. An architect has been appointed to study the various problems involved in the programme and to draw up a report.

Events in Wisconsin are also quite satisfactory. The legislature in that state has agreed to spend 18,00,000 dollars for building a new repository for the Wisconsin University Library which is now housed in the building of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The removal of the library from the Society's building will release sufficient space to enable the latter body to take care of all its archival collections. Plans are in progress also in Georgia for an entirely new building for its University Library.

Among other projects in the United States mention may be made of the new building planned for the Archdiocese of New York, to be named as 'The Archbishop Corrigan Library and the Patrick and Mary McGovern Archives'. Although under one roof the library and archives will be separately administered, the former by St. Joseph's Seminary and the latter by the Archdiocese itself. The cost has been estimated to be about 750,000 dollars. We expect to publish a note on the layout of the projected building in a subsequent issue of the *Indian Archives*. On a preceding page of this issue will be found a note contributed by Mr. S. Chakravorti, Archival Chemist, the National Archives of India, on the structural and other features of the Virginia State Library Building.

Business Archives

Business archives have been receiving the attention of professional historians in the United States for some time past. It is learnt from an article published in the *New York Times* for December 8, 1946, that the movement for preserving the facts about the rise and growth of American enterprise in the various fields of business came into being when about a decade ago, the American historians began seeking the co-operation of business executives in making their records available for research. The movement has received wide support from the leading institutions and foundations at American Colleges

and Universities. Particular mention may be made in this connexion of Harvard, New York, North Western, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Wyoming and Chicago Universities; Wheaton, Smith, Dartmouth and Northland Colleges; and the State Museum of Denver, Colorado. What is specially interesting to note is that the movement has been welcomed by business men also, and a report from the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration claims that it has received more requests for writing histories of companies than it could actually handle. A non-profit history committee has been set up by the chemical industry to aid researchers, and a Research Policy Committee to encourage such studies has been organized by the New Comen Society, an organization composed largely of corporation officers. Even banks, ever anxious to hide their records, have begun to open their files to researchers. Among those which have taken a lead in this direction figure the National City Bank and J. P. Morgan & Co., of New York, and banks in Philadelphia and Baltimore.

The Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration which is one of the Chief centres of studies on business enterprises, is shortly going to start a business history series. The first volume to be published is a history of the Pabst Company by Professor Thomas C. Cochran, Joint Editor of the *Journal of Economic History*. The Council of Industrial Studies of Smith College has in view a series of studies on the evolution of machine tools and mass production methods in precision manufacturing in the Connecticut Valley from 1775 to 1870. The Social Science Division of the Rockefeller Foundation has made a three-year grant to the University of Chicago for a history of Sears, Roebuck, to be compiled under the supervision of Dr. Boris Emmet. The Foundation has also made a five-year grant for a study of the Western Range Cattle Industry.

The Committee on Business Records of the American Historical Association has, with the support of the Committee on Business and Institutional Archives of the Society of American Archivists and the Committee on the Collection and Preservation of Business Records of the Economic History Association, drawn up a proposal for the establishment of a Directorate and a Secretariat whose functions would be:

(i) to survey selected firms and industries, outstanding records management programmes and resources of library institutions;
(ii) to conduct an extensive campaign of education launched in connection with the management and utilization of business records;
(iii) to prepare a set of manuals on the management and utilization of business records;
(iv) to serve as a clearing house for the exchange of information on business history and records management.

The Committee expects the project to become self-supporting within 3–5 years through its services to American business. Such

services will probably include: (*a*) an information service to business on the management and utilization of records, part of which may be a fee at cost; (*b*) consultation service by trained archivists for a fee at cost; (*c*) the preparation of business, institutional and industrial histories by qualified historians for a fee at cost; and (*d*) the establishment of business archives for the storage of business records at a fee covering costs.

Among the outstanding studies compiled for business archives during recent times mention may be made of *The Metropolitan Life: A Study in Business Growth*, by Marquis James (New York, Viking Press, 1947), and the *History of the Knapheide Manufacturing Company of Quincy*, Illinois, contributed by David Condron to the *Journal of Economic History*. The latter work vividly shows to what advantage can such apparently unimportant materials as daybooks, letter-files and pay-roll books be utilized.

Assembly of the Librarians of the Americas

The first Assembly of the Librarians of the Americas, organized as a part of the cultural relations programme of the Department of State was in session at the Library of Congress from May 12 to June 7, 1947. More than thirty library leaders from Latin America participated in the gathering and held discussions with outstanding librarians from the United States and Canada on the problems relating to their combined fields of endeavour. At the first general session on May 13, Luther H. Evans was elected the permanent Chairman of the Assembly and a warm discussion was held on the modern library and its philosophy and functions. The subjects dealt with in the succeeding sessions ranged from professional training, standard of librarianship, technical processes like classification and cataloguing, compilation of bibliographies and purchase of rare books and documents, to extension of copyright, library service and development, preservation of materials and Inter-American Library relations.

Of particular interest to archivists will be the discussion devoted to non-book materials of libraries in which the chief participants were Dr. Solon J. Buck, Archivist of the U.S.A., and Dr. Rubens Borbu de Morais, National Librarian of Brazil. The speeches stressed the growing interest of the public in phonograph recordings, the value of microfilming to public libraries as well as to research institutions, and the distinction between library and archival materials. In the course of his speech Dr. Buck explained that the National Archives of the United States functioned as the public records agency of the Federal Government, the States Archives cared for state papers and the Library of Congress preserved in its Division of Manuscripts many of those documents which were not public or official in character. Dr. Morais admitted that there existed some kind of rivalry between

archivists and librarians in Brazil, but on the whole the National Libraries' interest was in non-official manuscript records while the National Archives were concerned with the official records only. Dr. Burton Atkinson, Acting Chief of the Maps Division, Library of Congress, spoke on the importance of maps as research materials, and suggested the establishment of a special centre of information in each American country for the exchange of information on maps and related materials. Especially deserving of notice in this connexion are the following resolutions passed by the Assembly:—

> *Resolution* 37. That libraries receiving offers of rare books or manuscripts from agencies or individuals in other countries investigate the origin of the materials offered in order that strict compliance with legal requirements governing the exportation of such materials be assured; and that this recommendation be particularly noted when such rare books or manuscripts pertain to the cultural patrimony of a given country.
>
> That the Pan-American Union prepare and publish a compilation of all the laws and regulations in force in each of the American countries concerning the conservation and protection of cultural patrimony and that such a publication together with the present resolution be circulated as widely as possible among libraries and institutions which purchase material covered by such legislation.
>
> *Resolution* 45. That Libraries arrange for the microfilming of collections of rare and documentary materials and that such reproductions be placed in well-constructed libraries in various countries.

Book-binding, care and preservation formed the theme of a seminar meeting held on May 28. Mr. John Adams Lowe, Chairman of the American Library Association Book-binding Committee, reported on the co-operating programme carried out by his Committee and the Library Binding Institute, which represents the binding industry. Dr. Mary A. Bennett, Supervisor of the Binding and Photographic Department at Columbia University, spoke on the procedures to be adopted in preparing materials for binding at a University. Major Arthur E. Kimberley, Chief of the Division of Cleaning and rehabilitation at the National Archives, related the advances being made in the preservation of documents. The preservation problems encountered in tropical areas were stressed by Mr. J. Joaquin Pardo of Guatemala.

Among distinguished librarians from non-American countries who addressed the Assembly were Dr. Theodore Besterman, Counselor, Library Section of UNESCO, and M. Julien Cain, Librarian of the Bibliothèque Nationale and Director of the Libraries of France.

Harvard University Archives

The Archives Department of the Harvard University Library came into being in consequence of a resolution passed at a meeting of the President and Fellows of Harvard College in Boston, on February 6, 1939. The resolution enjoins that the archives of the official activities of University officers are to be considered the property of the University; that such property is not to be destroyed without the approval of a committee of three consisting of (*a*) the Secretary to the Corporation, (*b*) the Director of the University Library, (*c*) the Officer-in-charge of the Department where the papers accumulate; and that all archive material, when no longer required in the office to which it pertains, is to be sent to the University Archives. The term 'archives', according to the Resolution, means: (i) files of letters, both sent out and received; (ii) records and memorandum books, ledgers, journals, cashbooks, vouchers, mimeographed and similar material, and (iii) the files of any matter printed for official uses.

Each graduate school, division, department, committee, museum, laboratory and administrative unit have, as a result of the resolution adopted the practice of sending to the Archives Department all archival material pertaining to them as soon as it has ceased to be active. In the case of correspondence files, some offices follow the practice of transferring all letters beyond a certain age, while others send inactive folders, regardless of age in either case the files are eventually restored to their original order. In the case of minutes, the Corporation sends the original to the Archives as soon as enough has accumulated to bind as a volume. In the case of some bodies, particularly committees, minutes accumulate so slowly that years elapse before a volume has been filled. In such cases the practice is to send a carbon of the record of each meeting to the Archives, where it remains until the original comes in. The Archives Department maintains a *cardfile* showing the character, form, bulk, locations and transfer provision for all active records of the University.

The records transferred are classified and set up as the archive of the particular division, committee or other body or office to which they belong. A shelf-list is made out and sent to the depositing office, which may at any time withdraw the records for use. Accommodations are provided for representatives of the office sent to work in its records. The staff of the Archives is also glad to consult records at the request of the depositing office. Under the Resolution of March 7, 1938, departmental records for 1909 or earlier may be consulted after authorization by the Librarian or the Custodian of the Archives, who in case of doubt shall refer the matter to the head of the department concerned. Quotation or publication is permitted with the approval of the head of the department in question. Records

after 1909 may be consulted only with the approval of the departmental head concerned.

Besides the archival material described above the Archives contain a number of special collections which are open to the public. The largest of these is made up of the official copies of doctoral dissertations. Other interesting collections are: fair copies of every writing which obtains a prize; records of the various clubs, associations and similar organizations dating back to 1721; copies of lectures delivered on one of the foundations; files of examination papers; collections of material relating to the Harvard curriculum, which go back to 1671, and form a unique record of American education; files of folders containing clippings and other ephemeral material relating to Harvard men; material relating to the general history of the University, buildings and other property, admission, laws, scholarships, professorships, etc.; and private manuscripts of University officers. The last item consists of collections of professional papers and personal correspondence of former members of the teaching and administrative staff, and are considered as a valuable supplement to the official records.

The present Custodian of the Archives is Dr. C. K. Shipton.

William L. Clements Library, Michigan

The Manuscript Library of Mr. William L. Clements contains a large quantity of materials that will be of interest to the student of British history in the reign of George III. Among its principal contents are the famous Shelburne papers, the papers of Henry and Robert Dundas, Thomas Townshend, and, above all, those of Generals Clinton, Vaughan, Greene, Howe and Gage. The Library has also secured the transcripts of a large number of George III papers. The details about these paper collections have been published in the *Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the William L. Clements Library* edited by Mr. Howard H. Peckham, the Curator of the Manuscripts.

CANADA

The Public Archives, Ottawa

The Archives has resumed work on a peace time basis. Principal acquisitions of the Manuscript Division during 1946 include a facsimile of the warrant for the execution of Charles I of England, 1648, a photocopy of a land grant, 1743, a facsimile of Magna Charta, and a set of departmental organizational charts of the Civil Service Commission, 1922. The Archives held two exhibitions of pictures during the year. The War Museum affiliated to the Archives was visited by about 70,000 persons. *Report of the Department of Public Archives, 1946* which has been published this year contains besides a brief

résumé of the activities of the Archives, a Calendar of Nova Scotia official correspondence, 1802–1820.

Department of Public Records and Archives, Ontario

Ontario had a Bureau of Archives as early as 1903. It was organized by Col. Alexander Fraser. The present Department was brought into existence by the Act of the Provincial Legislature in 1923. The Department is in the administrative control of the Minister of Education. The holdings of the Department cover both public and private papers. The principal contents include the Land papers dealing with the early granting and leasing of land in Upper Canada; the records of the now defunct colonization Roads Branch, 1857–1936; a map collection comprising over 5,000 items, and a large mass of non-official archives deposited by private citizens. The last are calendared and indexed and are easily available. Among miscellaneous items mention may be made of David Thornton's journals and maps; the Articles of Capitulation of Detroit, 1813; Church records, marriage licences, diaries, etc. The collection of newspapers goes back to the year 1728. Among interesting items are a bound copy of the *Boston Chronicle*, 1728, and the *New York Albion*, 1822–1868.

The Department is also responsible for the organization of a mobile exhibition of photostat copies of documents which is kept constantly moving from school to school. This exhibition, we are told, has been enthusiastically received by the teachers as well as the pupils.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

International Historical Congress

Under the auspices of the French and British National Committees of the International Historical Congress the French and British Historians held their second meeting in Paris from 25–28 September 1946. At the plenary session Sir Maurice Powicke read a paper on 'The transcendence of the economic motive in politics' and M. Ferdinand Lot read another dealing with the interaction of politics and economics. The next two days were devoted to the meetings of the medieval and modern sections. Among the subjects discussed mention may be made of 'the political and economic importance of the Knights in England at the time of the Baron's War', 'Some aspects of the East India Company in relation to English politics', 'Economic motives governing French Colonial Ventures in the time of Francis I', and 'the political effects of the French crises de subsistances' of 1693 and 1709. The historians who attended the meeting included M. Francois Crouzet, M. Renouard, Dr. Alfred Cobban, Professor Tawney, Miss Sutherland and Sir Charles Webster, Chairman

of the British National Committee. The Archives Nationales held a reception in honour of the distinguished guests.

United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization

The Report on the Programme of UNESCO adopted by the General Conference held in Paris in December 1946 contains a number of proposals which would be of particular interest to archivists and librarians. Although special emphasis has been laid in the Report on the immediate task of rehabilitation of damaged collections and monuments the need for taking up problems of a permanent nature has also been fully recognized. Under the Rehabilitation Programme UNESCO is to stimulate and co-ordinate the efforts of governments and organizations in restoring collections which have suffered from the war, particularly on behalf of the nations which at the present time lack adequate resources. It is to stimulate survey and the preparation of reports on what has been destroyed and formulate plans for action by governments, private agencies and individuals. It is further to ensure that service for the protection of monuments, sites and collections takes a permanent form.

The UNESCO is to establish formal relations with such specialized international organizations as the International Council of the Museums, the International Federation of Documentation, the International Federation of Library Associations and the International Standards Organization. It should encourage through the appropriate international organizations, where possible, the adoption of uniform terminology and methods in libraries, museums and archives with special reference to bibliography, cataloguing, classification, indexes, abstracts, formats, etc.

The programme also envisages the exchange of personnel between institutions in different countries with a view to improving professional and technical education for libraries, museums and archives. Other proposals include the dissemination of information on such library and archival techniques as reproduction of books and documents and the creation of an international organization of professional archivists. The UNESCO is to deal, in collaboration with the organization, with questions of technique and administration such as the exchange of personnel, the general accessibility of archives, the establishment and exchange of inventories and the exchange of reproductions.

International Clearing House for Publications

The International Clearing House for Publications has been established as a subsection of the Libraries and Museums Section of UNESCO mainly to consider the means by which large accumulations of books in Germany and elsewhere can be distributed to encourage

the creation of central libraries for lending. The Clearing House has recently issued a new periodical *Unesco Bulletin For Libraries* with a view to facilitating the exchange and distribution of publications throughout the world. The first issue (April 1947) contains useful bibliographical information and book-trade news. The *Bulletin* also proposes to publish regularly the requirements of librarians all over the world with such details as would help donors and applicants to come in direct contact with one another. It is hoped that the new venture will be of immense use not only to those who need books but also to those who are ready to dispose of them.

International Federation of Library Associations

The thirteenth session of the Committee of the International Federation of Library Association was held at Oslo, from 20 to 22 May, 1947. About sixty delegates representing eighteen countries participated in the session. Addresses of welcome to the members were delivered by Frau Deinboll, President of the Norwegian Library Association and Mr. Festerroll, Minister of Education. The proceedings were opened by M. Godet, President of the Federation. Herr Wilhelm Munthe, the University Librarian, was voted to the Presidency in succession to M. Godet. Interesting discussions were held on the reports on the activities of the Federation since 1939. Among the reports received and considered were a report on international loans, the report of the International Federation of Documentation and the reports of the twelve Sub-Commissions of the Federation itself. On a representation from the Sub-Commission on Public Libraries, the Federation agreed that more public librarians should be associated with the different Sub-Commissions. A proposal was also accepted for holding a conference in 1948 on the need for public libraries in countries suffering from inadequate library facilities. The conference is to meet in Denmark and will consist of librarians, educationists and social workers. Among the distinguished delegates who participated in the gathering mention may be made of E. J. Carter, representative of UNESCO, Baronne Hankar, President of the National Council of Hospital Libraries, Belgian Red Cross, Mr. Milton Lord, Mr. D. D. O. Rod and Dr. L. Carnovsky, representing America and Mr. H. M. Cashmore, representing England.

The Committee of the Federation has been invited by the American Library Association to hold its fourteenth meeting in America. The fifteenth session is to be held in Prague.

BOOK REVIEWS

Florence Nightingale's Indian Letters, edited and with an introduction by Priyaranjan Sen (Calcutta, Mihir Kumar Sen, 1937, pp. xvii and 67, Re.1-8-0).

THESE letters of Florence Nightingale were brought to light in 1937 when the Bengal Government had taken up the question of tenancy reform. They all relate to the tenantry of Bengal, their grievances and rights, and thus have a topical value which continues as the movement for tenancy reform in Bengal and other provinces has not yet ended. Students of history and archives will, however, find this publication of interest from another point of view. Mr. Priyaranjan Sen has set an example by allowing the public access to this heirloom of his family. There are many such collections of correspondence, diaries, notes, etc. in many families, which are lying unknown to any one except the owner, and not always does the owner fully realize their value. Not infrequently, even the owner does not know of the very existence of such archives in his possession. And they are simply crumbling into dust with the passage of time. If people who know that there are some old papers lying somewhere in the house would only examine them or have them examined by competent people they would perhaps bring to light many facts not known before and fill so many gaps in our national history at present so full of holes.

To return to Florence Nightingale's letters, the humanitarianism of the 'Lady with the Lamp' has now become a cherished legend in the East as well as West. But few in India today know the deep interest she felt and nursed for the dumb and downtrodden peasantry of India. The fourteen letters which form the collection were written to an Indian friend between April 1878 and March 1882. They reveal Nightingale as a far better friend of the Indian masses than the interested partisans like Edmund Burke, George Thompson or Eleanor Rathbone. Whether Nightingale could get at the crux of the problem is certainly not evident from these few letters. But whatever she lacked in intellectual equipment she surely made up by her moral indignation at the evils which came to her notice. '*Disinterested* political, not party principle—oh what a great, what a divine quality this is!' was her message to the educated youths of India (p. 15) and she wrote paragraphs pleading for a solid public opinion against bribery and corruption of the native petty officials. Another passage runs thus: 'A people cannot really be helped except thro' itself: a people must be *in*formed, *re*formed, *ins*pired through itself. A people is its own soil & its own water. Others may plant, but it must *grow* its own produce. As well might crops be

grown without soil & without water as prosperity and knowledge be *grown* without the people's minds begging the cultivated soil for these noble crops' (pp. 24-25). These letters also bring out that well-known trait of Nightingale's, emphasis on facts and figures. Her queries about Indian ryots exhibit her in the rôle of 'a passionate statistician' (as one of her biographers described her).

The editor appends a list of Nightingale's published writings on India which relate particularly to problems of sanitation, irrigation and education. A quest for further unpublished letters and writings on India may be taken up, since Nightingale carried on correspondence with many officials and natives of India (*Dictionary of National Biography*). The book contains a scholarly introduction and valuable notes on some of the points raised in the letters. The editor is to be complimented for setting an example and will indeed render valuable service to students of economic and social history of modern India if he publishes the other manuscripts lying in his custody (pp. 41-42).

N. C. S.

The Viceroy and Governor-General of India, by A. B. Rudra (London, Oxford University Press, 1940, pp. xvi and 362, Rs.11).

PUBLISHED in 1940, Dr. Rudra's comprehensive treatise on the Viceroy and Governor-General of India meets a long-felt want in Indian historical bibliography. This is an admirable study of an office, which, as Prof. Laski says in his Foreword to the book, 'is certainly among the half-dozen most important offices in the gift of the British Crown'. The office of the Governor-General was created on 20 October, 1774, when Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of Bengal. Half a century later the office of the Governor-General of India was created and Bentinck had the distinction of being the first to take office under the new designation. The Viceroy holds an office which is unique in constitutional phraseology. He cannot be compared either to the British Prime Minister or the President of the United States because in all essential matters he is subordinate to the British Cabinet in London. Nor is he to be compared with the Governor-General of a dominion under the British Commonwealth of Nations whose powers fall far short of the Viceroy.

The book is divided into two parts. In Part I, the author discusses the historical background of the Governor-General's office. The first three chapters are devoted to a lucid and analytical study of the appointment, tenure, nature and sources of the Governor-General's power. He rightly points out that 'A long standing convention makes the office tenable normally for five years. This usage goes back to the Regulating Act of 1773 which fixed Hastings' tenure at five years

(p. 11), although some like Dalhousie and Linlithgow held tenures for longer periods and some for shorter periods. The shortest Viceroyalty was that of Ellenborough who held office only for a period of two years and four months after which he was recalled. Chapters IV to X are the most useful parts of the book as they give us a clear picture of the complex machinery in and through which the Viceroy functions. The author's exposition of the duties of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy is highly interesting. But for a student of Indian central administration, Chapters V and VI are the most valuable as they deal with the growth and development of the Secretariat. The author deals at length with the various government departments and their powers and functions as they existed in 1938, but unfortunately the outbreak of the war has necessitated changes of a fundamental nature in the work of the several departments. Hence this portion has now become more or less out of date, and we feel that the adoption of a new constitution will provide the author with the opportunity to bring out a fresh and up-to-date edition. The author's treatment of the history of the Government Departments is undoubtedly sketchy, but it must not be forgotten that he was primarily concerned with the Viceroy and Governor-General and only incidentally with the administrative machinery of which he is the head.

The author has carefully examined the position of the Governor-General *vis-à-vis* the Secretary of State, 'the Great Mogul' as Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru picturesquely described him. The Governor-General is definitely subordinate to the Secretary of State from a strictly constitutional point of view. Dr. Rudra writes, 'The fact that the Governor-General is also Viceroy gives him greater dignity, but does not affect his amenability to the control of the Secretary of State, ... To adopt a well-known expression, the Governor-General is indeed a lion, but under the throne of the Secretary of State' (pp. 184-85).

Part II of the book deals with the position assigned to the Governor-General by the Government of India Act, 1935, but, as Prof. Laski apprehended, it is growing rapidly obsolete due to the tremendous changes brought about in India during the last two years. The office of the Governor-General itself is in the melting pot and the British Cabinet declaration of 20 February 1947 fixing June next year for the final transfer of power to Indian hands makes it reasonably certain that the present incumbent of the office is likely to be the last Viceroy and Governor-General of India. In spite of all this, Dr. Rudra's book is likely to remain the standard treatise on the subject for several decades to come, and we can unhesitatingly recommend it to all those interested in the administrative and constitutional history of India.

K. D. B.

Studies in Indo-British Economy—Hundred Years Ago, by N. C. Sinha (Calcutta, A. Mukherji & Co., 1946, pp. viii and 107, Rs.5).

BREAKING new ground has a charm of its own and the reader of present day historical literature in India having had a surfeit of political history will welcome this little book which in Dr. Radhakamal Mukerjee's words 'fills with distinction an important gap in Indian Economic History.'

Novelty of the subject apart, Mr. Sinha's approach to his theme and its treatment are of absorbing interest. He has analyzed the Charter Act of 1833 bringing out all its implications in the internal economy of India. The circumstances leading to the degeneration and decay of indigenous industries, the rise of a class of landless labourers, the introduction of capitalistic enterprise under British entrepreneurs, the growth of a bourgeoisie with a changed outlook—all this has been shown to be a natural corollary of the forces set in motion. In the process the masses were impoverished and India, from the pivotal position in the international economic structure, was relegated to the rôle of supplier of raw materials to British industries. While some of these facts were known in broad outline, the author has driven them home with additional evidence. One only wishes that he had given greater details in support of his conclusion instead of taking the risk of the book being called sketchy. He has sometimes sacrificed lucidity to brevity. Perhaps this was natural in a thesis designed 'as a framework' for further investigation and the author himself admits that it is 'by no means a complete treatise'. We shall certainly look forward to Mr. Sinha carrying on his investigations and producing a complete work on the economic history of this interesting period of transition. But even as it is, Mr. Sinha could perhaps have given less space to some matters with advantage in order to make his treatment of others fuller. For instance, the problem of Coolie traffic having arisen as a natural result of the policy being pursued in India rightly called for some treatment in connection with the main theme, but the wisdom of giving so much space to it in a book of this size may be questioned.

The book is based partly on unpublished manuscript records, but mainly on printed parliamentary papers. It is a pity that the author's investigations have suffered due to non-availability of certain parliamentary papers anywhere in India. The Government of India is, it is understood, considering the question of getting microfilm copies not only of documents missing from our archives but also of rare and valuable books not available in India, as part of its cultural reconstruction programme. While this will undoubtedly be very welcome, the Government may immediately try to get at least one complete set of parliamentary papers relating to India from the India Office which is facing liquidation next year. This should not be

difficult and the Government of India will thereby facilitate research work and earn the gratitude of historical investigators.

Unfortunately the book suffers from many printing mistakes and Mr. Sinha would do well to remedy these defects in the second edition of his book which should not take long in coming.

S. C. Gupta.

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